FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-241
Wednesday
16 December 1987

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-87-241* *16 December 1987*

CONTENTS

**MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW**

16 December Middle East and South Asia Review ..... 1

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Inter-Arab Affairs**

King Husayn Mediating Between Egypt, Syria *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 14 Dec]* ..... 3
Arab League Discusses West Bank, Gaza Events *[Tunis]* ..... 3

**Islamic Affairs**

UN Mission Urged To Investigate Gaza, W. Bank *[KUNA]* ..... 3

**Palestinian Affairs**

Two U.S. Journalists Held in Gaza Hospital *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... 4
'Arafat Calls for UN Force in Occupied Areas *[Belgrade TANJUG]* ..... 4
'Arafat Meets With USSR's Sytenko in Baghdad *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* ..... 4
PLO Official on 'Upheaval,' Casualties *[Manama WAKH]* ..... 5
Arab Envoys, PLO Official Discuss 'Uprising' *[Aden VOP]* ..... 5

**OPEC Affairs**

Further on Vienna Ministerial Meeting ..... 5
Saudi Oil Minister Comments *[SPA]* ..... 5
Production Audit Viewed *[KUNA]* ..... 6
Signing Done as 'Gesture' *[IRNA]* ..... 7

**ARAB AFRICA**

**Chad**

Habre Meets With French, Sudanese Officials *[cross-reference]* ..... 8
Libyan Planes Fly Over Bardai 14, 15 Dec ..... 8
Central Africa Economic Union Holds Meeting ..... 8

**Egypt**

Israel Urged To Reconsider 'Escalation' Policy ..... 8
Israeli 'Atrocities' on West Bank Condemned ..... 8
MENA Reports Mubarak Remarks on French TV ..... 8
Comoran President Arrives on Official Visit ..... 9
Holds Talks With Mubarak ..... 9
More on USSR Friendship Society Head's Visit ..... 9
Speaks at Reception ..... 9
Meets With 'Ali Lutfi ..... 9
Talks With Al-Baz, Comments ..... 10
'Abd al-Majid, Pirzada Discuss Mideast Issues ..... 10
PLO Official on 'Extremely Successful' Talks *[QNA]* ..... 10
Delegation Concludes Visit ..... 11
Joint Communique Issued With Hungary 15 Dec ..... 11
GDR Sports Minister Arrives for Talks ..... 11

**Libya**

Further on Congress of Arab Opposition Parties ..... 11
Concluding Resolutions Issued ..... 11
Statement on Topics Discussed ..... 13
Mubarak Remarks on Al-Qadhdhafi Refuted ..... 16
Leader Contacts Kaunda on Chad 'Allegation' ..... 16
Al-Humaydi Returns, Received by Al-Qadhdhafi ..... 16
Correction on Visit of Niger Foreign Minister ..... 16
Further on Visit of Niger Foreign Minister ..... 16
Meets With Al-Talhi ..... 16
Received by Al-Qadhdhafi ..... 17

**Mauritania**

Burkinabe Minister Delivers Compaore Message ..... 17

**Sudan**

Qaysan Reportedly Falls Into Rebel Hands *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Dec]* ..... 17
Regional Commander Claims Antirebel Successes *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Dec]* ..... 17
DUP Leader Reports on Visit to Saudi Arabia ..... 18
Al-Mirghani Signs 1987 Law Amendments 14 Dec ..... 18
Taj al-Din Meets With Chadian, French Presidents *[cross-reference]* ..... 18

**Tunisia**

Prime Minister Discusses New Political Process ..... 18
Chamber of Deputies Approves Planning Budget ..... 19

**ARABIAN PENINSULA**

**Inter-Gulf Affairs**

Iran Attacks Greek Tanker; None Injured *[Athens]* ..... 20

**Kuwait**

Oil Minister Returns From Vienna, Views Accord ..... 20
Egyptian Defense Minister on Talks, Security ..... 20
Al-'Usaymi Receives PNC Deputy Speaker ..... 20

**PDRY**

New Provincial Commissioners Announced ..... 21

**Saudi Arabia**

Ministers Condemn Iranian Actions, 'Intrigue' ..... 21

**United Arab Emirates**

PRC Official Meets With Minister 'Abdallah ..... 22
Departs 14 Dec ..... 22

**Yemen Arab Republic**

Further on Visit of Soviet Economic Delegation ..... 22
Joint Committee Talks Open ..... 22
Economic Ties Reviewed ..... 23
Meets With Al-'Iryani ..... 23

## IRAQ

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations ..... 24
Military Actions Detailed ..... 24
Communique No 2,951 ..... 24
Fighting in North Denied ..... 24
'Large Maritime Target' Hit ..... 24
2 More 'Maritime Targets' Hit ..... 24

## ISRAEL

Gaza Palestinians Said To Hold 2 U.S. Reporters *[AFP]* ..... 25
Gaza Riots Spread to 'Almost Every Street' ..... 25
3 Casualties Reported ..... 25
Molotov Cocktails Thrown ..... 25
5 Killed, 11 Wounded 15 Dec ..... 25
Disturbances Continue 16 Dec ..... 25
Molotov Cocktail by Al-Shifa' ..... 26
Riots Around Al-Shifa' ..... 26
Bi'r Zayt Students Stage Peaceful Protest ..... 26
No Damage From Explosive Charge in Qiryat Gat ..... 26
Press Comment on Situation in Territories ..... 26
Civilian Administrator Interviewed on Unrest ..... 27
Labor Says Likud Responsible For Current Unrest *[MA'ARIV 14 Dec]* ..... 28
Shamir Accuses Labor of 'Defeatist Reaction' ..... 28
Rabin Defends Policy in West Bank, Gaza ..... 28
Proposal To Close Territories to Media Denied ..... 28
Civil Administration Warns on Unrest Coverage *[AL-NAHAR 14 Dec]* ..... 28
Editorial on Publication Ban in West Bank, Gaza *[AL-SHA'B 15 Dec]* ..... 29
Further Comments on Disturbances in Territories ..... 29
'Iron Fist' Policy Condemned *[AL-FAJR 13 Dec]* ..... 29
Balatah Camp Unrest Analyzed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Dec]* ..... 29
Shamir on Sharon Move, IDF Action ..... 30
Sharon Jerusalem Move Called 'Provocative' *[AL-NAHAR 15 Dec]* ..... 30
Demonstrations Mark Sharon Housewarming ..... 30
'Routine' Searches Noted Outside Security Zone ..... 31
Northern Commander: War With Syria Not Imminent ..... 31
Egypt Not To Provide Financial Aid to PLO *[AL-SHA'B 14 Dec]* ..... 31
Rabin 'Encouraged' on Chances for Arms Deal *[THE JERUSALEM POST 16 Dec]* ..... 31
U.S. Arab Lobby Behind 'Penetration' Story *[HA'ARETZ 16 Dec]* ..... 32
'Satisfaction' Noted on Poland's Clarification ..... 32

## JORDAN

Iraq's Ramadan, Delegation Continue Visit ..... 33
Joint Committee Meets *[INA]* ..... 33
Husayn Receives Ramadan ..... 33
Committee Signs Minutes ..... 33
PLO's Al-Wazir, Dudin Confer in Amman 15 Dec *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... 33
Joint Committee To Meet *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Dec]* ..... 34
UN Representative Denounces Israeli Actions ..... 34
Results of Unemployment Survey Published *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Dec]* ..... 34
AL-RA'Y Praises 'Continuous Uprising' *[15 Dec]* ..... 35
AL-DUSTUR on Husayn's 'Exceptional Efforts' *[15 Dec]* ..... 36

## LEBANON

Assassination Attempt on Army Commander Foiled *[MENA]* ..... 37
Israeli Advance Reported in Western Al-Biqa' ..... 37
Planes Fly Over Sidon ..... 37
Artillery, Helicopter Fire *[VOL]* ..... 37

Force Advances; Clashes Occur *[RFL]* ..... 37
Army Position Under Fire ..... 37
Hizballah Members Arrested *[VOL]* ..... 37
4 Reported Wounded *[VOL]* ..... 37
Force Build-Up Continues ..... 38
Military Vehicle Damaged ..... 38
Maronite Patriarchate Confirms Sfayr-Lahd Talks *[VOL]* ..... 38
Lahd Responds to Birri Comment on Sfayr Visit *[VOP]* ..... 38
UN's Goulding Views Talks With Officials *[VOL]* ..... 39
Discussion With Birri ..... 39
Al-Jumayyil's Plan For Unity Government Noted *[RFL]* ..... 39
Syrian Killed in Bturram; Residents Harassed *[RFL]* ..... 39
Secret 'Resistance' Formed in Beirut, Sidon *[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI 14-20 Dec]* ..... 40
Hizballah Officials Abducted in Beirut Suburb *[RFL]* ..... 40
Lebanese Forces, Amal Exchange Abducted Persons ..... 40

**SYRIA**

'New Opportunity' Exists 'To Besiege Israel' ..... 41
AL-BA'TH 'Refutes' Egypt's Claims on Accords ..... 41
Egypt 'Afraid' To Cancel Camp David Accords ..... 41

**SOUTH ASIA**

**Afghanistan**

Najibullah Receives Soviet Trade Union Official ..... 43
Local Tribesmen Join Mujahidin in Khowst Siege *[AFP]* ..... 43
Mujahidin Launch Attacks in Nangarhar Province *[Islamabad]* ..... 43

**Bangladesh**

'Victory Day' Preparations, Messages Noted ..... 43
Rallies Allowed 16 Dec ..... 43
Ershad Urges Peace ..... 44
Leaders Issue Messages ..... 44

**India**

Gandhi Returns From Burma, Comments to Media ..... 45
Normal Life at 'Standstill' in Darjeeling ..... 45

**Iran**

Khomeyni Health Rumors Linked to New Offensive *[KUNA]* ..... 45
Vienna Embassy Denies Rumors *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 16 Dec]* ..... 46
Khomeyni's Brother Reportedly Summoned to Tehran *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* ..... 46
Majlis Speaker on War, Summit, Imam's Will ..... 46
Foreign Ministry Supports Palestinian 'Uprising' ..... 48
Montazeri Issues Message on Palestinian Unrest ..... 49
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Montazeri ..... 49
Khamene'i, New Pakistani Envoy Comment on Ties ..... 50
Islamabad Attache on Trade With Pakistan ..... 50
Khamene'i Receives Outgoing Italian Ambassador ..... 50
Italy Asked To Investigate Assaults on FAO Mission ..... 50
Khamene'i Briefed by Envoy to Turkey ..... 50
Official, Soviet Envoy Discuss Cooperation ..... 51
Musavi Calls on Broadcasters To Expand Programs ..... 51
Interior Minister Outlines Election Preparations ..... 51
Oil Minister Cited on Leaving OPEC Session ..... 52
Commentary on OPEC Session, Saudi Stand ..... 52

Commentary Recalls Arab, U.S. Aid to Iraq ..... 52
Tehran Reports Greek Tanker Attacked Twice ..... 53
IRGC Spokesman Interviewed on Forces to Fronts ..... 54
'Several Million' Volunteer for War Service ..... 54
Joint Staff Issues Communique No 3,051 ..... 55
Peshmerga Reportedly Kill 50 Iraqi Troops ..... 55

**Pakistan**

Commentary Notes U.S. Congress Change on Aid ..... 55
British Minister Holds Talks in Islamabad ..... 56
Confers With Zain Noorani ..... 56
Meets With President Zia ..... 56
Formal Talks Held 15 Dec ..... 56

**Sri Lanka**

IPKF Activities, Clashes With LTTE Reported ..... 56
Attack on Police Station ..... 56
'Massive Haul' of Explosives ..... 57
4 Wounded, 4 Killed 15-16 Dec ..... 57

## 16 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD161405 [Editorial Report]

### Israel

**Gaza Strip Riots**—The IDF sent reinforcements and new equipment for dispersing rioters to Gaza following violent clashes 15 December in which 5 residents were killed and 11 wounded, Jerusalem radio reported. The disturbances had spread to almost every street in Gaza, the radio noted, and IDF troops entered a hospital to disperse a riot that erupted after casualties were brought in.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir disclosed that he and the IDF chief of staff have discussed the possibility of "closing certain zones" to the media during disturbances in order to "prevent journalists from coming to any harm," Jerusalem radio reported. However, Shamir's media adviser stressed that the closure idea is "not an operational proposal."

**Views Outside Israel**—A PLO official cited by WAKH gave a higher estimate of Palestinian casualties in the "popular upheaval" than that provided by Israeli media in recent days. Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told the agency that the number of Palestinian "martyrs" in the occupied territories was 37 as of 15 December, while the number of wounded was 406. He accused the IDF of "Nazi" methods, including beating youths with rifle butts. The Palestinian "uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza was among the topics discussed during a meeting in Baghdad between 'Arafat and visiting Soviet official Mikhail Sytenko, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. 'Arafat subsequently appealed to the UN Security Council to send peacekeeping forces to the occupied territories to protect the Palestinian population, TANJUG reported. The ICO urged the Security Council to send a UN mission to the area to investigate the killings of Palestinians, KUNA noted.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement carried by Tehran radio said the Palestinian "uprising" will be a "turning point" in Palestinian struggle and "a lesson to those compromising leaders of Palestine, who have laid down their arms and are seeking pointless and fruitless political solutions." The uprising "negated the validity" of efforts by "reactionaries" to compromise with Israel and was an appropriate response to the "treacherous efforts" of Arab "puppets" of Israel and the United States, the Ministry contended.

### IDF Operation in Lebanon

An IDF spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio announced that the IDF carried out "routine searches for terrorist concentrations" in the Maydun area, outside the eastern sector of the security zone. The Israelis exchanged fire with a group of "terrorists" and destroyed a vehicle before returning to the security zone. One IDF soldier was lightly wounded.

Among Lebanese reports on the operation, Beirut radio said the Israelis raked the Maydun area with fire from artillery and helicopters, but they "failed to attain their objective" because of "tough resistance" by local inhabitants and resistance fighters. Voice of Lebanon radio said a combined IDF and SLA force advanced 2 km outside the security zone, wounding two Shi'ite gunmen and capturing several members of Hizballah. Two Lebanese Army soldiers were also wounded when their vehicle was hit by a missile from an Israeli helicopter, the radio reported.

### Gulf Conflict

Iraqi warplanes attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 2100 GMT on 15 December, according to a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. For Iran's part, Tehran radio cited reports from shipping sources that the Greek tanker "Ariadne" carrying Saudi oil was hit a second time by "gunboats."

Regarding the situation on the northern battlefronts, an Iraqi military spokesman told INA that security in the Salah al-Din and Kuysanjaq areas is "firmly established," thus denying an IRNA report that PUK forces recently carried out a successful "blitz attack" in Irbil Province.

### Iran

In a KEYHAN interview reported by IRNA, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicated that he is currently "too busy" to make an "ordinary" visit to the Soviet Union, but that he will go to Moscow if "some developments" take place in mutual relations. Regarding the recent U.S.-Soviet summit, he said the United States had adopted an "aggressive" approach toward the USSR, and the latter should have been "more offensive" in response by focusing on the issue of the U.S. presence in the Gulf. Asked about Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's revised will, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he has "no idea" about its contents, nor does anybody else except Khomeyni himself. He confirmed that Iranian leaders were "surprised" by the issuing of the new will, stressing that they would otherwise have made "arrangements" to prevent rumors about Khomeyni's health.

### Egypt

**Relations With Syria**—A 14 December report by Kuwait's AL-QABAS cited the view of Egyptian press sources that Jordanian King Husayn's efforts to reconcile Egypt with Syria are "nearing success" as both the Egyptian and Syrian presidents have agreed to meet under Jordanian auspices. AL-QABAS also reported that the Egyptian authorities have instructed Egyptian news

media not to criticize Syria in order to create a better climate for a discussion of bilateral relations. Monitored Egyptian media have not been observed to attack Syria since 21 November.

**Relations With PLO**—The week-long visit by a PLO delegation headed by Mahmud 'Abbas was "extremely successful," 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, declared in remarks cited by QNA. The official announced that a PLO representative will be appointed to Cairo "soon" and disclosed that the Egyptian Government "welcomes" a visit by Yasir 'Arafat. He also noted that Egypt has agreed to extend "necessary facilities" to Palestinian residents.

**Talks With Kuwait**—The Kuwaiti amir received Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, KUNA reported, adding that the Egyptian minister also discussed bilateral affairs and current issues with the premier and defense minister.

## Algeria

In his state of the nation address to the National Assembly, President Chadli Bendjedid stressed the need to implement management reforms in all areas with the aim of increasing productivity and combatting "stagnation," Algiers radio reported. The president charged that "centralization and bureaucracy" prevent workers from making a proper contribution to planning, and he cautioned against overrating the "competence" of foreign experts, some of whom use Algeria "for experiments."

On the subject of regional affairs, Bendjedid announced that positive developments in relations with Libya fall within the framework of the country's orientation toward Maghreb unity, a concept which should now be brought into a "decisive stage." He singled out the conflict over Western Sahara as an "obstacle" to unity, and he reaffirmed his country's support for that disputed area's "free self-determination without military intervention."

## Libya

A conference of Arab opposition parties meeting in Tripoli 12-15 December stressed the importance of establishing Arab unity, according to a final statement carried by JANA. Regarding "pan-Arab responsibility" toward the liberation of Palestine, the statement called for "opening all Arab borders to the Palestine revolution" and emphasized "the necessity of stepping up the armed struggle" in an effort to "redeem" the rights of the Palestinian people. According to a resolution carried by the agency, the conference decided to establish "formulas and programs" for the Palestinians' armed struggle.

## Tunisia

**Constitutional Council**—President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali established a "constitutional council" whose main responsibility will be to review legislation for constitutionality, Tunis radio reported.

**Defense Pact With Spain**—A 5-year agreement on defense cooperation in the areas of maneuvers, training, and R&D exchanges, was signed by Spain and Tunisia, Madrid radio announced, adding that the "model" agreement is the first of its kind between Spain and a Maghreb country.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### King Husayn Mediating Between Egypt, Syria

*JN152039 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic*
*14 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] Cairo—The higher Egyptian authorities have instructed the various Egyptian news media not to criticize the Syrian Government on any level in what is described as a preparatory measure to calm down the current situation and to provide a better climate for a discussion of bilateral relations.

Informed Egyptian sources have emphasized that a senior Egyptian official and a Syrian official of equal rank will meet next week. In the meantime, Egyptian press sources said that King Husayn's efforts to reconcile Egypt with Syria are nearing success. They added that President Husni Mubarak told King Husayn during his recent visit to Cairo that he does not object to meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "in a border area" between Jordan and Syria or in Amman.

These sources reported that King Husayn had proposed this meeting to Mubarak only after Hafiz al-Asad had promised to attend it. They added that Egypt, Syria, and Jordan are keeping secret all details of this anticipated meeting. They noted that Cairo has expressed to King Husayn its satisfaction with the Syrian stand on the resolution regarding restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations in a bilateral manner—a resolution on which Syria had no reservations.

### Arab League Discusses West Bank, Gaza Events

*LD151910 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1600 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] The Arab League Council held an emergency session in Tunis today on the level of permanent representatives of League member states to examine developments inside the occupied Arab territories and to discuss the steps to be taken to support the uprising of the Palestinian people and to confront the criminal acts of the Israeli authorities against the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, presented a report on the events taking place inside the occupied territories and the PLO's view on the actions which the Arab community could take on pan-Arab and international levels to support the steadfastness of the Palestinians and to expose Israeli practices and their violations of international law, particularly the Geneva Convention.

At the end of its meeting, the Arab League made an urgent appeal to the United States and its specialized agencies, as well as to all international bodies, urging them to take steps to ensure effective international protection of the defenseless Palestinian masses in the occupied territories. For the 7th consecutive day, these people have been subjected to a vicious offensive by the Israeli occupation authorities, which has resulted in the killing of tens of Palestinians and the wounding of hundreds.

The Arab League Council also decided to make next Monday, 21 December, a day of solidarity with the uprising of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. A minute of silence will be observed in the afternoon in memory of the martyrs who have fallen in the last few days in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the bullets of the occupation troops. [passage omitted]

## Islamic Affairs

### UN Mission Urged To Investigate Gaza, W. Bank

*LD152139 Kuwait KUNA in English 1925 GMT*
*15 Dec 87*

[Text] United Nations, Dec 15 (KUNA)—The Islamic Conference urged the Security Council Tuesday to send a U.N. mission to the Israeli-occupied territories to investigate the killings of Palestinians in the current Palestinian uprising.

Meeting under the chairmanship of Kuwait at the request of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the IOC wants the mission to report back to the council so that it may take the necessary measures to stop the killings.

Diplomats said the PLO's aim is to have the United Nations patrol the territories on a permanent basis, either by stationing a U.N. peacekeeping force there or posting U.N. observers.

The request for the dispatch of a U.N. mission to the occupied territories and the posting of permanent U.N. observers is expected to be part of a draft resolution currently being drafted by the nonaligned members of the Council.

The 15-nation U.N. body, whose primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, has been meeting on the outbreak of violence in the West Bank and Gaza since Friday.

If Israel prevents the proposed mission from entering the occupied territories or rejects the observers, the Arabs would consider this a victory as it would prove to the rest of the world Israe"s refusal to heed Council resolutions, diplomats said.

In a communique issued after the meeting, the IOC "strongly condemns the Zionist aggression" against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and warns the international community against the "dangers of this blatant Zionist arrogance."

The communique urges all nations to "respond to their moral and legal responsibility towards the Palestinian people, to stand up for their historic inalienable rights to return to Palestine, to extend their self-determination and to establish their independent Palestinian state on their national soil."

Addressing the IOC meeting, the PLO's deputy permanent observer Riyadh Mansour expressed the PLO's gratitude to Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad A. 'Abd al-Hasan who called the meeting in his capacity as chairman of the Islamic Conference countries.

Mansour urged the IOC members to participate in the current Council session and help the Council to adopt the decision.

"We want the Council to take specific measures to stop the massacres and guarantee the security and safety of our people in the occupied territories until Israel has withdrawn and the Palestinian people have attained their national rights," Mansour said.

The IOC communique said "the Zionist leaders are under the spell of a vindictive hysteria, as they continue their escalated reprisal campaign against the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the face of the Zionist occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories."

The Islamic ummah, the communique said, reaffirms its solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people and their "glorious uprising" under the leadership of the PLO.

The Zionist occupiers, the document said, would not have pursued in their action, had it not been for the constant support extended to them by "certain states and the absence of an international reprisal force."

The IOC called on the U.N. to take "urgent and effective steps" against Israel, including the imposition of sanctions under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, with a view of enforcing immediate and total withdrawal ending the Zionist occupation of all the Palestinian territories as well as the other Arab lands, including the city of Al-Quds.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Two U.S. Journalists Held in Gaza Hospital

*JN161229 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
*1216 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] We have just learned that Palestinian demonstrators are holding two U.S. journalists. They are now in the Al-Shifa' hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip, which is surrounded by Israeli forces who are searching for four wounded Palestinians shot by the occupation forces this morning and admitted to the hospital.

According to AFP, the Palestinian demonstrators have threatened to kill the two U.S. journalists held hostage if the Israeli occupation forces storm the hospital.

### 'Arafat Calls for UN Force in Occupied Areas

*LD151831 Belgrade TANJUG in English*
*1745 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Belgrade, December 15 (TANJUG)—In an exclusive statement to TANJUG, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat tonight called on the United Nations Security Council to urgently send international peacekeeping forces to the occupied territories and protect the Palestinian population from the hostilities carried out by the Israeli forces.

### 'Arafat Meets With USSR's Sytenko in Baghdad

*JN151946 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic*
*1816 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met in Baghdad this morning with Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador at large on special assignment at the USSR Foreign Ministry, who arrived in Baghdad from Moscow yesterday.

Sytenko reviewed with brother leader Abu 'Ammar the results of the Washington summit between leader Gorbachev and President Reagan, as well as the discussions conducted at it, including those on regional issues. Foremost among these issues were the Middle East problem, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and the Palestinian question. Also included were efforts to convene an international conference, the constant Soviet stand alongside the Palestinian people's just cause and national inalienable rights, and the importance of PLO participation on an equal footing in all peace steps given that it is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian question, the volatile situation inside the occupied homeland, and the dimensions of our Palestinian people's great heroic uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They also examined the dimensions of the current Zionist scheme against our struggling masses there through the escalation of the iron fist policy—the policy of repression, killing, and torture.

Sytenko expressed the Soviet Union's support for our people's masses in their valiant uprising and in confronting the occupation army's repression. He also expressed support for the Palestinian people's comprehensive and strong rallying around the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

The talks, which lasted 2 and 1/4 hours, dealt with many other international and regional issues, including the situation in the Arabian Gulf and the Iraq-Iran war and ways to halt it in accordance with Resolution 598.

The meeting was attended on the Soviet side by the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad and on the Palestinian side by Brother Abu Tariq, brother leader Abu 'Ammar's adviser for Arab affairs; Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, brother leader Abu 'Ammar's information adviser; and Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, the PLO representative in fraternal Iraq.

### PLO Official on 'Upheaval,' Casualties

*JN151911 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (WAKH)—A PLO official has stated that the number of martyrs who have fallen in the occupied territories as of this afternoon has reached 37. Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for information affairs, has stated that according to reports received by the PLO from the occupied territories, the number of wounded has reached 406. He added that there are other martyrs whose names have not been communicated in view of the news blackout which the Zionist occupation forces have imposed on the popular upheaval.

Bassam Abu Sharif told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the general strike called by the national institutions in the occupied homeland, which began this morning, is still being observed throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bassam Abu Sharif added that reports received by the office of the Palestinian Revolution Forces commander in chief say that Israeli soldiers opened fire this afternoon on a demonstration staged by women and children, which was proceeding toward the Dar al-Shaifa' Hospital in Gaza. An unspecified number of people were wounded. He added: In spite of this, the demonstrators continue to clash with enemy soldiers in front of Dar al-Shifa' Hospital.

Abu Sharif said that the women raised Palestinian flags, shouted slogans in support of the PLO, and confronted armed enemy soldiers. Abu Sharif said that reports received from the occupied territories also say that Israeli soldiers are now using Nazi methods to confront children under 14 years of age. According to these reports, the Israeli soldiers used their rifle butts to deal blows to sensitive parts of the Palestinian youths' bodies, wounding many of them. He said that this is taking place within the sight and hearing of UN employees. Abu Sharif promised to give other details about these new methods which the Israeli soldiers have begun to use.

### Arab Envoys, PLO Official Discuss 'Uprising'

*EA152154 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Arab ambassadors and heads of missions accredited to the PDRY met at the office of the PLO representative in Aden to discuss the situation and the grave developments in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Zionist entity, supported by its strategic ally the United States, continues to use the racist iron fist policy and fascist repressive methods, killing hundreds of martyrs, wounding hundreds of others, and detaining thousands of the heroic sons of the Palestinian people. These people are continuing their comprehensive uprising and their legitimate struggle to achieve their national and inalienable rights of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

The Arab ambassadors and heads of mission have stressed the following:

1. Their pride in and unlimited support for the struggle of the Palestinian people in their occupied territories and their revolution and comprehensive uprising against the racist policy being practiced by the Zionist enemy.

2. Their strong condemnation and denunciation of the organized terrorist campaign and the state terrorism being applied by the Zionist authorities in violation of all international and regional efforts for a just peace in the Middle East. Israel has continued to reject the convening of an international conference as a proper forum for the desired peace.

3. We expect from the international news media a more objective role and we ask them to recognize the difference between the legitimate right of self-defense and the struggle for freedom, independence, and human dignity on the one hand and terrorism on the other.

## OPEC Affairs

### Further on Vienna Ministerial Meeting

#### Saudi Oil Minister Comments

*LD152227 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1618 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Vienna, 15 Dec (SPA)—His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of oil and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, has declared that the Kingdom's attitudes inside OPEC are based on pure economic bases and have nothing to do with political objectives. His excellency added at a press conference held last night at the end of the 82d OPEC meeting, which was held in Vienna, that all members had given assurances of their adherence to the agreement reached yesterday to fix the

price of oil at $18 per barrel. His excellency said that if there is a real commitment to the agreement reached yesterday, then its effect will show immediately in the market.

His excellency rejected the idea of the Kingdom playing the role of a swing producer and said that the Kingdom's objective is to maintain a stable oil market and cohesion within OPEC.

His excellency pointed out that raising the price of oil, whether as a result of the decline of the dollar or any other reason, will be regarded as a price increase regardless. His excellency went on to say that unless there were conditions in the market making raising the price possible, we believe OPEC should pursue an unhurried price policy in the short and long terms.

His excellency affirmed that the Kingdom wishes to see Iraq as a party to the agreement because it deserves the share it is demanding and because with its inclusion it would be possible to hold back 500-600,000 barrels per day from the market.

He said the task of the five-member committee (the Kingdom, Venezuela, Algeria, Nigeria, and Indonesia), which is concerned with price monitoring, is to raise or reduce production if market factors affect the price. It is not its task to amend the price if its decline were the result of differences on shares.

### Production Audit Viewed

*LD152216 Kuwait KUNA in English 1658 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Vienna, Dec 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi addressed Tuesday a group of media representatives and said that in the difficult times ahead with pressure both on prices and production volume, the introduction of an audit agreement is seen an important measure of checking each member's adherence to the 18 dollars per barrel (dlrs/bbl) reference price and the new 15.06 million barrels per day (MBPD) ceiling agreements for 12 OPEC members, Iraq excluded.

Kuwait and other OPEC members had joined in the suggestion to have a Dutch firm again undertake the auditing, but this time with a different approach: Checks would be made simultaneously in all 13 OPEC member countries and, if possible, without much of prior warning, he said. If all countries allow auditors in the same time and for multiple unannounced visits, they will be welcome in Kuwait, Shaykh 'Ali said. 'Open-end visa and all books placed at disposal, provided all the others do so too,' he added.

Kuwait's strategy, Shaykh 'Ali told the newsmen, is based on 90 billion barrels oil reserve to produce in the next 200 years. Significant investments are to help improve returns as well as to get a better feeling of the market. This is why Kuwait gets into transport, refining and marketing. The 'BP' [British Petroleum] acquisition is to lead to further activity.

'Daily fluctuation are not our concern' the Kuwaiti oil minister said, discussing oil prices. The effect of the U.S. dollar is seen differently in OPEC countries because 'it should be remembered that the oil industry is a dollar-based industry, as are such competitors as, for example, the coal industry.'

Shaykh 'Ali explained the absence of the 18 dlrs/bbl price for reference crude from being mentioned in the conference communique: 'That price is a continuing decisions, nothing new.' He hopes that prices won't decline and made clear that the agreement passed on Sunday does not prescribe a rigid intervention threshold to call an extraordinary ministerial meeting.

He sees as 'essentially unfair' to charge a customer the official price in the light of discounts which in some cases reach the three dollar/barrel mark. Shaykh 'Ali hopes 'this practice will be discontinued and then all customers will pay the full price.' Kuwait, too, would like to start the new year with full prices but Kuwait has to mind maintaining its position in the market. 'At the same time we would not want to lose customers that are with us for over 20 years.'

Shaykh 'Ali expects demand for OPEC crude at a 18.5 to 19.0 MBPD range in 1988. That range 'is neither based on phantasy nor is it overly optimistic.' On forecasting, the oil minister felt that 'when we make assessments of the future we must stand ready to be corrected by events.'

On the outsider's role of Iraq at the present time, Shaykh 'Ali believes 'the sooner we can include Iraq again the better. As long as Iraq produces at will it puts a burden on all OPEC members. I hope they will exercise control because every additional barrel puts additional pressure on the market.'

Kuwait's own production was about 100 to 150,000 B/D above quota, but Shaykh 'Ali 'would be glad to go down if we see the others do, too.' He emphasized: 'We would be glad to start the new year at quota level if others do so as well.'

Answering a KUNA question, Minister Shaykh 'Ali does not see any shift in demand for light or heavy crudes. He also said it was irrelevant to speak of 'petroleum export ceilings' rather than of production ceilings. The reason is that domestic demand in producers/exporter countries is part of world demand.

Answering a query regarding the Kuwaiti pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea, Shaykh 'Ali acknowledged that government institutions are reviewing such plans. 'The project is in the early planning stages,' he said.

Asked about "politicizing" of OPEC, Shaykh 'Ali smiled: 'My friend, the Iranian minister calls everything he does not like political.' But indeed politics play a role as the Gulf war came up. 'We hope there will be peace soon between the two neighboring countries and the Gulf turned into a lake of friendship' Minister Shaykh 'Ali said.

### Signing Done as 'Gesture'

*LD150952 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 15, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Oil Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili said here Tuesday that the Iranian delegates here had signed OPEC's resolution not because they wholly approved of it, but rather as a gesture of yielding to the verdict of the majority. Kazempur-Ardabili, speaking to reporters at the conclusion of the 82nd session, stressed that Iran signed the new agreement despite its deep concern for current situation in the oil market.

The session wrapped up its 7-day deliberations early Tuesday by approving a 15.06-million BPD production ceiling for 12 member countries -excluding Iraq- for the next six months. The resolution extended the work of the five-member monitor committee comprising oil ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, for the same period. The committee is in charge of monitoring oil price fluctuations in work market in connection with official OPEC price.

The Iranian official told reporters that by signing the resolution Iran prevents possible violation of some member countries of the resolution and their subsequent attempt to attribute destructive results of this infringement on oil price to Iraq-Iran war.

Kazempur-Ardabili attended the final session and signed the resolution on behalf of Iran in the absence of the Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who left Vienna Monday. The Iranian delegation in a letter to OPEC Chairman Rilwanu Lukman informed him of its views on oil price, production ceiling and quotas. Sources here said that in its letter the Iranian delegation had said that the members which oppose price hikes as a counterbalance against the impacts of the slump in dollar value in fact betray their own political outlooks.

The Iranian delegation ascribed the current disorder and external pressures on the market to 'certain OPEC members, especially Iraq' for declining to subscribe to and honor OPEC's resolutions and for producing beyond their assigned quotas. The next OPEC session is scheduled for June 8, 1988.

## Chad

### Habre Meets With French, Sudanese Officials

For reportage on the activities of President Hissein Habre in France while attending the Franco-African summit in Antibes, including his meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the Sudanese State Council, see the France section of the 14 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

### Libyan Planes Fly Over Bardai 14, 15 Dec
*AB151933 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1905 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] The Libyan Air Force flew over Bardai yesterday at [illegible] [1800 GMT] and this morning at 0600, yet another proof of the violation of Chadian airspace and the cease-fire in force since 11 September. This Libyan attitude has once again proved the head of state right.

### Central Africa Economic Union Holds Meeting
*AB152149 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] The UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa] Steering Committee officially began its deliberations this afternoon in Ndjamena. The opening ceremony, which was presided over by Bilal Soubiane, the Chadian minister of commerce and industry, was attended by many guests, including members of the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Central Committee, the National Consultative Council, and the Cabinet, as well as representatives of diplomatic missions and international organizations. The Steering Committee, made up of ministers of the six member states of the union, will prepare for the 23d summit of heads of state scheduled for this week in our capital. The ministers will examine 55 files prepared for them by the experts. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### Israel Urged To Reconsider 'Escalation' Policy
*NC152040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt has been following with great concern and extreme sorrow reports on the continuing escalation of violence in the occupied territories as a result of the suppressive Israeli measures, particularly since the number of innocent citizens falling victim to Israeli gunfire is on the rise.

The source added that, despite the calls made by Egypt and the peace-loving forces in the world for the need to quickly end the suppressive Israeli measures, these actions have unfortunately not ceased. In addition, the latest news agency reports refer to an incursion into southern Lebanon by Israeli troops, something which Egypt terms a serious escalation in the entire region that could lead to more serious consequences. This escalation also constitutes a real obstacle in the face of the unfailing efforts Egypt is exerting to give impetus to the peace drive and achieve a just settlement.

The source went on to say that Egypt urges the Israeli leadership to reconsider its policy of escalation, which will only shed more blood and impede Egypt's sincere efforts to give momentum to the peace process under the full support of all peace-loving forces in the world. The source added that the current situation is extremely serious. He calls on the entire world to tell Israel in no uncertain terms that its policy of escalation could drag the entire region into a broader and more serious confrontation and that it must stop this policy immediately.

### Israeli 'Atrocities' on West Bank Condemned
*NC161254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1223 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee has condemned the continuing bestial and arbitrary acts that are being carried out by the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories in general, and the atrocities to which the Palestinians in the West Bank, Arab Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip are being exposed in particular.

In a statement issued today, the committee expressed its concern over the escalation of repressive acts by the Israeli occupation forces. The statement urged all foreign parliaments and international organizations to intercede immediately to stop these inhuman practices, the acts of killing and torture, and the hunting down of the wounded in hospitals.

The committee also urged the international community to make the greatest efforts to see that an international peace conference is convened under UN auspices. In this way, the committee said, a just, peaceful, and comprehensive settlement may be reached guaranteeing the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and the solution of the Palestinian problem so that peace and stability may prevail in the area.

The statement expressed support for the UN General Assembly resolutions condemning the Israeli settlement policy, Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and its forcible annexation of land.

### MENA Reports Mubarak Remarks on French TV
*NC161117 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Paris, 16 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his belief that the problems facing the Arab world at present require unity, cooperation, and

intensified efforts by Arabs. He said: Unless Arab countries cooperate with each other, the major problems facing them, such as the Gulf war and the Middle East problem, will be difficult to solve.

In an interview with Channel 2 of French television, broadcast late last night, President Mubarak added that these considerations had prompted Arab countries to resume their diplomatic ties with Egypt. He said he views this development as very important for all Arabs.

The president was asked about the chances for holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East despite the objection of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The president replied: I am surprised. The situation changed when Shamir came to office and became Israeli prime minister. The president stated: We are not dealing with individuals. We are dealing with the Israeli Government and this government agreed to an international peace conference. Why does it reject it now? This is the problem.

The president was asked whether there is any likelihood that relations with Israel will be severed if it does not agree to an international peace conference. He replied: As you well know, we are working for a comprehensive solution. If they do not accept an international peace conference, we will have to hold a dialogue with them and have consultations with our friends and theirs in the various parts of the world, like the Americans, the Soviets, and the Europeans, to persuade Israel to accept an international conference as an umbrella under which a comprehensive solution can be found.

Responding to a question on the PLO's representation of the Palestinians, which Shamir rejects, President Mubarak declared: It is not possible to make distinctions between one person and another. If we bring you 10 Palestinians, you will not be able to say who is in the PLO and who is not.

The president was asked whether he believes that the major danger facing the Arab world at present is Iran's aggression and its impact on the region, particularly the growing trend toward extremism.

The president stated: We have some extremists. I do not deny their existence. There are some who used to belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. In general, he added, they cannot do anything that goes against the will of the people, because if they do all members of Parliament will confront them. Therefore, there is nothing to fear from them.

Asked about Egypt's response to the demands of the IMF and the payment of its foreign debts, the president said: We held negotiations and signed an agreement with the IMF. If they impose new terms which are unacceptable to us, we will not agree to them. He added: We will not accept any pressure from the IMF which may affect social peace in Egypt.

It is worth noting that the special French television program that carried the president's remarks also included tourist and cultural films about Egypt, particularly the Cairo international cinema festival which ended recently after attracting a large Egyptian audience. The French television announcer pointed to this, asserting that Cairo is a major cultural center for the Arab world and the region as a whole.

### Comoran President Arrives on Official Visit

*NC141719 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, president of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 4-day official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He was received at Cairo airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who escorted the Comoran guest to the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah where he was accorded an official reception ceremony.

### Holds Talks With Mubarak

*NC150847 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held talks with Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, president of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, today. The talks were attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Said Kafe, Comoran minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The Comoran president arrived in Cairo for a 3-day [as received] visit.

## More on USSR Friendship Society Head's Visit

### Speaks at Reception

*NC151210 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Vladimir Vinogradov, chairman of the USSR-Egyptian Friendship Society, who is currently visiting Cairo, has praised Egyptian policy under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. He also lauded the positive developments in cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Vinogradov made these statements during a reception which Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, gave for the Soviet delegation today. The two sides also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in all spheres.

### Meets With 'Ali Lutfi

*NC151224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Consultative Assembly, has received RFSFR Foreign Minister Vladimir Vinogradov and his accompanying

delegation who are currently visiting Cairo. Gennadiy Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting. The two sides discussed the current situation in the Middle East and Egypt's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. They also reviewed ways to boost bilateral relations in all spheres.

### Talks With Al-Baz, Comments

*NC151514 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met here today with the members of the USSR-Egyptian Friendship Society delegation, led by RSFSR Foreign Minister Vladimir Vinogradov.

In a statement after the meeting, Vinogradov said that the discussion had focused on bilateral relations, the Middle East issue, and the Gulf situation. He added that the two sides had agreed on the need to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East, attended by all the parties concerned, and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Gulf war. The two sides welcomed the outcome of the Washington summit as a first step toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. Vinogradov also said that it had been agreed during the session to promote Egyptian-Soviet cooperation in all fields.

### 'Abd al-Majid, Pirzada Discuss Mideast Issues

*NC151523 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, the two officials discussed preparations for convening an Islamic countries foreign ministers meeting, which is due to be held in Amman on 19 March, as well as developments in the Gulf war and the Afghan issue.

Talks also dealt with developments in the Palestinian issue and the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It should be recalled that Pirzada arrived here yesterday on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

### PLO Official on 'Extremely Successful' Talks

*JN151248 Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (QNA)—'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, has described the PLO delegation's visit to Cairo as "extremely successful." He said that during the delegation's visit agreement was reached with Egyptian officials to continue coordination to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East and to strengthen Arab action and the close relations between Egypt and the PLO.

Speaking at a press conference at PLO headquarters in Cairo last night, 'Abdallah Hurani said the Egyptian Government showed complete understanding of the PLO's demands regarding conditions of Palestinians residing in Egypt and will extend to them all the necessary facilities for residence, work, and education both by allocating to them additional seats at Egyptian universities and by exempting Palestinians living in Egypt from school fees.

He said the Egyptian side told the Palestinian delegation that Egypt welcomes a visit by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Egypt at any time he chooses. Hurani said he believes such a visit will take place in the near future.

Hurani said the PLO will appoint a representative in Cairo soon and will seek to maintain close relations with Egypt to prevent any "misunderstanding" in the future. He added that Egypt had emphasized to the delegation its support for PLO attendance at an international peace conference on an equal footing with the Arab parties as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Referring to efforts to convene an international peace conference, Al-Hurani said the call to convene an international conference has become an international and Arab fact despite the opposition of the United States and Israel. He said there are still differences over two points; namely, the form and role of the conference and Palestinian representation in the conference.

Hurani said the PLO stand on the conference is clear; namely, it should not be a mere international "umbrella" but must be effective and enjoy all powers, with the PLO attending the conference on an equal footing with other parties. He said the PLO is now holding a dialogue with Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab countries to develop a well-defined Arab stand in preparation for the conference and to call for an Arab summit if necessary to give impetus to efforts to convene an international conference as soon as possible and to prepare for it.

Referring to relations between the PLO and Jordan, Hurani said the Palestinian-Jordanian joint coordination committee will meet in Amman this month. He said the Palestinian side will be headed by Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad. The committee's talks will be dedicated to discussion of supporting the steadfastness of citizens in the occupied territory. As for Jordanian-Palestinian talks on coordinating action for peace efforts and for finding a just solution for the Palestinian question, Hurani added, they will be held by a PLO Executive

Committee delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin. He predicted the talks will be held in Amman in the first week of January 1988.

Answering a question from the QNA correspondent in Cairo on relations between the PLO and Syria, Hurani declared the PLO welcomes a dialogue with Syria without mediators. Hurani said documents were exchanged by the two sides last September and the PLO is waiting for an invitation from Syria to begin talks between the two sides.

Hurani noted that the PLO wants Egypt, Jordan, and Syria to attend an international peace conference and believes in the need for coordination among the Arab sides.

Asked about the uprising of citizens in the occupied Arab territory, 'Abdallah Hurani said the popular uprising confirms the Palestinian people's firm rejection of the occupation and their support for the PLO. It also confirms, he added, that Israeli violence and oppression is futile in confronting the Palestinian people's uprising and that the only solution is to acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is their right to self-determination and to establish a state on their land.

The Palestinian delegation arrived in Cairo last Tuesday. It is led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, and includes PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani and Mahmud Darwish.

### Delegation Concludes Visit

*NC151525 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—The members of the PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, left Cairo this afternoon after a week-long visit to Egypt during which they met with President Husni Mubarak. They also met with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

### Joint Communique Issued With Hungary 15 Dec

*NC151503 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and Hungary have affirmed that holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East, to be attended by all the parties concerned with the issue, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, is the only possible and available way to resolve the Middle East problem.

In a joint communique issued at the end of Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi's visit to Cairo, the two countries supported the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. The two countries welcomed the U.S.-Soviet treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe and emphasized their determination to continue efforts to consolidate and strengthen international peace and security. The communique noted that the two countries' views were identical with respect to the importance of dialogue and political negotiations between the countries as a means for resolving international problems.

The Egyptian-Hungarian joint communique noted that the talks between the two countries were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding. During these talks, the two sides discussed ways to promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields. The communique further added that the Hungarian foreign minister had invited Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to visit Hungary. The invitation has been accepted with appreciation and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

### GDR Sports Minister Arrives for Talks

*NC151025 Cairo MENA in English 0930 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, Dec 15 (MENA)—The minister of youth and sports in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) arrived here this morning on a three-day official visit during which he would meet with head of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports Dr 'Abd al-Ahmad Jamal al-Din.

In a statement upon arrival, the East German official said he will discuss ways to reactivate bilateral sport relations. He will also get acquainted with achievements in the field of sports in Egypt, he added. The East German official said on Thursday a protocol between Egypt and the German Democratic Republic on exchanging sport teams between the two countries will be signed.

## Libya

### Further on Congress of Arab Opposition Parties

### Concluding Resolutions Issued

*LD152345 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Dec (JANA)—At the conclusion of its meetings held from 12 to 15 December at the People's Hall in Tripoli, the Pan-Arab Conference of the Arab Opposition Parties issued several resolutions and recommendations. These stated the following:

First: The Arab opposition forces, in shouldering their pan-Arab responsibilities, resolve that the question of Arab unity has become a national duty in addition to being a pan-Arab issue. Because it is no longer possible to continue with the practice and method now in use, the Arab opposition forces have therefore decided the following:

A. To list the demands for Arab unity in the programs of the Arab parties and the organizations that have not yet done so—at various political, cultural, and media levels—and to struggle to achieve this unity.

B. To mobilize the Arab masses. To make them aware of the dangers of the growing deterioration of the Arab situation and of the necessity of overcoming these circumstances and halting the deterioration by adopting the Arab unity project.

C. To pressure the Arab regimes to overcome their secondary differences and to concentrate instead on the main rivalry with the imperialist Zionist enemy. Also, to immediately enter into the Arab union project.

D. Any political or social differences should not prevent action that seeks to achieve the unity project. This structure will provide a fence to protect the Arab nation but will not prevent these interactions.

Second: In light of adopting the formula of the Arab union and laboring at all levels to attain this union—since the latter is a duty that prevents the decline of the Arab situation—and as a step on the path to Arab unity, the Arab opposition forces will simultaneously carry out the following efforts for pan-Arab solutions to the problems causing differences among the Arabs:

1. To establish a pan-Arab committee under the supervision of brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and with the participation of the secretaries general of the political parties in the Arab countries to solve thse problems.

2. This pan-Arab committee will send delegations to the Arab regions to consolidate Arab public opinion at both the popular and official levels, and to resolve these problems in the interest of the Arab nation and in a manner that will wrest the initiative from the enemy.

3. A distinguished Arab role for solving these problems should be given priority over all other efforts. This will indicate the extent of the pan-Arabism of these solutions.

Third: In light of the complications of the Arab reality, the solutions with which the Arab liberation movement confronts such complications should inevitably be compounded and interlocked in order to achieve the pan-Arab aims of liberation, unity, and progress. Therefore, the participants decided:

1. Pan-Arab responsibility requires the opposition forces to list in their programs and activities the Palestinian issue as a national liberation issue, one very similar to other national tasks. This is to raise a new national generation who will work for the liberation of all of Palestine.

2. To lay down formulas and programs for the armed struggle of the Palestinian people—particularly in the occupied territories—at the level of material and economic support. Also, to volunteer to participate in the struggle and to work to open Arab borders for guerrilla action.

3. To work to resist recognition of the Zionist enemy. This recognition is an act of aggression against the Arab nation and a compromise of its pan-Arab rights.

Fourth: The Arab opposition forces, while saluting the historic role of the Lebanese Arab people, under the leadership of its national progressive forces—who today by themselves shoulder a pan-Arab responsibility by offering their territory as a springboard for the armed pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy—decided:

1. To approve the joint memorandum submitted to the conference by the delegations of the Lebanese national movement.

2. To work to strengthen the Lebanese people and their progressive national forces with all types of material and moral support, to regain the unity of Lebanon, and to preserve its Arabism and independence as well as its democratic development.

3. To make efforts at various levels to bolster the liberation of southern Lebanon and to render the necessary assistance to its inhabitants.

4. To render material and moral assistance to the Lebanese national resistance, which is waging an armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, and to mount an extensive campaign of support for it at the Arab and international levels.

5. To work to put a conclusive end to the camps war.

Fifth: In confronting the Arabization and generalization of stable David, to prevent the Zionization of the Arab homeland, and to enable Egypt to regain its leading and pioneering role at the pan-Arab level, the participants decided:

1. To bolster the struggle of the Arab people in Egypt along the path of Egypt's regaining its role and its pan-Arab progressive line, to topple the policies of Camp David.

2. To work with the Egyptian opposition forces to find a practical formula at the popular level that will guarantee Arab unity around the Egyptian people and their

national movement, to enable them to confront imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plans to isolate Egypt and end its role in the Arab homeland.

3. To call for the convening of an Arab popular conference at which the practical formulas for Egypt's return to the Arab fold and what that country and its people should be given—at the different political, economic, and military levels—to confront stable David, can be discussed.

4. To demand the end of all types of barriers, such as closed borders, that prevent [the movement] of the Arab peoples, and to denounce these measures. To struggle to facilitate the free movement of Arab citizens and the right to work and live freely—to increase pan-Arab interaction at all levels to achieve Arab unity—in a way that will not contravene the decisions of the committee on boycotting the Zionist enemy.

Sixth: The participants approved the following recommendations:

1. To employ the information media and the intellectual capabilities of the Arab opposition forces to confront the imperialist and Zionist strategic attack.

2. To take all measures to confront the normalization with the Zionist enemy at all levels and to prevent the Zionization of the Arab homeland.

3. To work for the formation of a pan-Arab popular committee to organize volunteers and the collection of donations for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to bolster the pan-Arab struggle.

## Statement on Topics Discussed

*LD152053 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The pan-Arab opposition parties issued the following statement:

Taking the initiative of the leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Secretariat of the People's General Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah issued an invitation to Arab opposition parties to hold a conference in Tripoli during the period 12-15 Al-Kanun (December) 1987.

Attended by 65 delegates the sessions of the conference were conducted in a democratic way about the following topics:

1—The problems which have raised conflicts between the Arabs, these are:

A—In light of the Egyptian regime's continuous acknowledgement of the Zionist enemy, what steps should be taken?

B—The Gulf war

C—The Western Sahara

D—The international peace conference to solve the Middle East problem

2—The pan-Arab responsibility regarding the liberation of Palestine and supporting the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people.

3—The pan-Arab responsibility to support the Lebanese national forces.

4—Arab union as a formula dictated by the present state of affairs to stop the deterioration and to create a powerful economy that will protect the Arab world.

Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, addressed the opening session with a resounding speech that covered all topics. He called upon the gathering to come out with clear cut ideas and resolutions.

He pointed out the need for Arab union as a basis for pan-African unity. The leader also stressed the need to stop all mischievious acts damaging to the Arab cause.

The participants stressed the need to defeat reactionary Arab regimes to regain control. They affirmed the great loss inflicted on the pan-Arab struggle as a result of Egypt's signing of the Camp David accords and its subsequent withdrawal from the Arab fold.

The participants have hailed the heroic struggles waged by the Egyptian people against the policies of David Camp and the policies of normalization with the Zionist enemy. They have also called for the necessity of establishing closer relations among the factions of Arab liberation movement and the Egyptian national forces for the purpose of repulsing the policies of Camp David.

Excepting the delegation of the Egyptian national movement present at conference, the participants, in this regard, have renounced the resolution released by Amman summit which has opened the door for the resumption of relations between the Arab regimes and the Egyptian regime which abides by the accords of stable David and the Arabization of these accords, apart from accepting the principle of the normalization of relation with the Zionist enemy. Such an eventuality engenders harm to the Egyptian people itself in addition to the Palestine revolution and the entire Arab liberation movement.

The participants have stressed that Egypt must return to its natural and pioneering role in the Arab liberation movement and be free from the fetters of stable David.

Looking into the Iraqi-Iranian war and the miseries and losses it has inflicted alongside the benefits achieved by imperialism and Zionism because of its continuation, the participants have stressed the necessity of ending this mad war. In this regard, the participants at conference emphasized the necessity of having a pan-Arab proposal for a solution conducive to safeguarding the interests of the Arab nation and the Iranian people, apart from not following the Arab reactionary regimes in adopting an American solution to this war which is of necessity against the Arab nation.

Delegates have denounced strongly the U.S.-NATO military presence in the Gulf and the provision of facilities to it in this important part of the Arab homeland.

Delegates bring to mind anew that these imperialist forces themselves have colluded with Arab reaction to spark off this war. They are also behind its continuation preparing for imposing a solution to it at the expense of the Arab nation, the Palestinian cause and the pan-Arab struggle.

Looking into the war in Western Sahara which has been going on for a time, the participants at conference have found in this war a danger wrecking the Arab efforts and Arab forces keeping them away from the central cause of Arab struggle.

The participants see it necessary to put an end to this issue in a manner conducive to serving the unity of Arab Maghreb through the overall Arab unity.

In this regard, there comes an agreement on the necessity of abiding by the international resolutions which call for conducting a referendum in the Western Sahara specifying its future thereby stopping the bloodshed of Arabs in this part of the homeland.

The participants have discussed another question which preoccupies the (?Arab) liberation movement, namely, the stance on the international conference on the Middle East.

Despite the various viewpoints on this issue, there is a consensus of opinion which rejects the U.S.-reactionary conception of the international conference which aims at bringing about an international cover for direct talks with the Zionist enemy to be a justification to join the policies of stable David. It is the only solution to the Middle East problem put forward by U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy.

The participants see that the quick reaction by Arab regimes to accept this conference constitutes a pretext to reach the table of direct negotiations.

The participants have expressed their unanimous opinion on the difficulty of holding an international conference securing the interests of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation given the balance of forces inside the Arab homeland and in the Middle East arena.

Such a balance is at present forcibly in the favour of the enemies. The participants have agreed not to make any disagreement on accepting or rejecting this conference as a cause for new divisions inside the Arab liberation movement. On the contrary, this issue should be dealt with in a spirit of objective dialogue which is equal among the progressive, patriotic pan-Arab forces.

There is a consensus of opinion asserting that the potentials of the Arab nation are capable of achieving a victory at the military and political levels.

Conference has looked long into the pan-Arab responsibility towards the liberation of Palestine and supported the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people.

The delegates have strongly hailed the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied lands while heroically and courageously facing the Zionist repression and the Zionist war machinery.

The delegates have also stressed the necessity of stepping up the armed struggle as an inevitable way for return to liberate Palestine and redeem the national rights of the Palestinian people in the spearhead of which being its right to return and to self-determination, apart from building its independent, national state on the whole soil of Palestine led by the Palestine Liberation Organization—its sole legitimate representative.

The participants have emphasized the necessity of increasing the support given to Arab liberation movement of the Palestine revolution in the face of the rapid plot concocted against it the last of which being what was revealed in Amman summit. It is the plot that aims at usurping the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization to represent the Palestinian people, and wasting the natural rights of this people for the benefit of an American settlement keeping the door wide open to the Jordanian regime to join the Egyptian regime in pursuing the policies of stable David.

The participants have stressed the necessity of putting a final end to the war of camps in Lebanon and to protect the Palestinian presence therein.

The participants are of the opinion that the Palestine national unity is to be of solid bases and foundations in the forefront of which being its abiding by the armed struggle and the animosity towards imperialism alongside rejecting the political deals of Arab reaction. It is an unavoidable necessity to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and defend its achievements in this critical time the Arab homeland is going through.

The participants hold that the alliance relations between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Lebanese national forces and Syria backed by Al-Jamahiriyah, Algeria, Democratic Yemen and the factions of Arab national liberation movement is inevitable necessity to support the central cause of the Arabs, namely, the Palestinian cause.

In this regard, the participants condemn any attempt made to divert the struggle in the Arab homeland and eliminate the Palestinian question from being in the forefront of Arab liberation struggle. They call for opening all Arab borders to the Palestine revolution. Looking into the Lebanese crisis and the great sacrifices that have been given and still given by the Lebanese Arab people in defence of the Arab nation and the Palestinian question in facing up to the plots of the imperialism, Zionism, reaction, Lebanese isolationist and fascist forces connected with the Zionist enemy, conference has unanimously expressed the necessity of giving all material and political support to the Lebanese national forces in the struggle it wages in defence of the unity of Lebanon, apart from its Arabism, independence and democratic advancement.

Conference has also saluted the heroic Lebanese national resistance which faces with arms the Zionist enemy inflicting upon it heavy losses thereby giving a tangible evidence that the armed struggle is the only way to redeem the usurped land and rights.

Conference has hailed the cohesion of Lebanese-Syrian-Palestine struggle whose importance of struggle has been confirmed in the fight for overthrowing the 17th Al-Ma' (May) [agreement] and the expulsion of the U.S.-NATO troops from Lebanon thereby giving the practical example to reply to the policies of stable David and the forces connected with such policies.

Conference has called on the Arab liberation movement, progressive regimes and all Arab countries to give quick and genuine support to the Lebanese people to face the stifling economic crisis Lebanon is going through for a time.

The participants see that surmounting this plight by Lebanon, the return of peace and national unity and reforming its political order can only be achieved through defecting [as received] the isolationist schemes within the framework of a balance of forces inclined towards the benefit of those forces hostile to imperialism, Zionism and reaction in the Arab homeland.

The participants have discussed the formula of the Arab union and the initiative of Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

They are of the opinion that this union in this stage answers the minimum of the aspirations of the pan-Arab work thereby safeguarding the economic and political interests of the Arab nation and securing the defence of its lands and rights against the dangers surrounding it.

The participants hold that if this formula has been achieved it will make the door wide open towards the initiative of objective and effective dialogue of a variety of questions that are of concern to the Arab homeland. It is of great help to solve problems still outstanding among Arab countries, let alone avoiding the emergence of new problems that may cause harm to these countries individually or collectively such as the case in the Lebanese arena, Iraqi-Iranian war, the problem of Western Sahara and as is the case concerning in particular the central cause of the Arab nation, namely the Palestinian question.

Accordingly, conference supports the brotherly colonel in his presentation of such formula calling on the Arab countries and the Arab League to study this proposal in accordance with the state of deterioration under which we live today, apart from achieving a new step on the road of the pan-Arab unity. It is our way to attain to this age in a world of great population and political blocs.

Conference calls on Arab parties which don't place the question of Arab unity in the core of their respective programmes to treat this question as an urgent mission in the spearhead of those mission for which these parties wage struggles to achieve.

In conclusion, delegates extend their thanks to Al-Jamahiriyah as a leadership and a people, and also to the General People's Congress for taking the initiative in organizing this important pan-Arab conference. It has been an occasion to bring together various factions of Arab liberation movement, let alone giving an opportunity to them to exchange viewpoints on several basic questions some of which pertain to the present and future of the Arab nation.

The participants believe in the necessity of complementing and deepening this dialogue within the purview of the pan-Arab establishment to which they belong, namely, the Arab People's Congress.

They see in this third regular session of this congress for which preparations are underway for a time as a new oncoming opportunity to get together and deepen the dialogue, apart from taking steps forward on the road of the comprehensive pan-Arab work.

The participants call on the Standing Secretariat of Arab People's Congress to benefit from the sessions of the Arab opposition conference to prepare this session to unify the Arab efforts and achieve the desired benefit for holding pan-Arab struggle meetings.

Conference sees it necessary that the liberation forces in the Arab homeland give additional support to the pan-Arab command of Arab revolutionary forces to escalate the armed struggle against the strategic savagery of imperialism, Zionism and reaction, the aim being reinforcing the armed struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The participants greet Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with pride and appreciation for the pan-Arab struggle role played by him in the Arab liberation movement and for his important initiative of calling for the convening of this conference as another step on the path of his continued efforts to achieve the unity of the Arab nation and the unity of the Arab national liberation movement factions.

### Mubarak Remarks on Al-Qadhdhafi Refuted

*LD152326 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Dec (JANA)—The leader of the Egyptian regime, kneeling Husni [Mubarak], yesterday gave UAE television an interview that was full of trivia and irresponsible nonsense. Among the things he said was that Al-Qadhdhafi wanted a union with China. Kneeling Husni then cunningly asked: What does Al-Qadhdhafi want?

The kneeling one thus proved that he is a little boy, for this kind of talk cannot be uttered by a man. In fact, it is the talk of women and children. We used to hear such nonsense from the entombed Al-Sadat. This is what led to his downfall in the end.

As for the wish of Al-Qadhdhafi for a union with China, this a complete lie. This kind of talk is completely rejected and cannot be believed by any sane person. As for the kneeling one's asking what it is that Al-Qadhdhafi wants, the wishes of the latter are clear and have been so since the first communique of the Great 1 September Revolution.

As for you, kneeling Husni, it would be better for you to remain kneeling where you are. We are sorry to talk to you in such a way, but this is the only language that you understand.

### Leader Contacts Kaunda on Chad 'Allegation'

*LD151512 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution has sent a message to Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia and current chairman of the OAU, in which he explained the attitude of the Great Jamahiriyah toward the allegation spread by Ndjamena.

The message of the brother leader reaffirmed the Great Jamahiriyah's determination to continue strengthening and supporting the efforts of the OAU, due to Tripoli's commitment to the OAU's principled stand. This stand stipulates reliance on the will of Africans to resolve African problems.

The message asked the OAU chairman and member states to shoulder their responsibilities toward the French and U.S. colonial military presence in Chad, as well as toward the policy of these two countries. This policy is based on sending arms to be stockpiled in Ndjamena, to escalate the situation in Chad, and to undermine and destroy the peace efforts of the OAU to solve the Chadian problem.

The brother leader has sent a similar message to Omar Bongo, president of Gabon and chairman of the [OAU] good-offices committee, on the same issue.

### Al-Humaydi Returns, Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD141227 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi on the occasion of the conclusion of his visit to fraternal Tunisia. Al-Humaydi briefed the leader of the revolution on the results of the meetings and talks he had with the brother officials in Tunisia, headed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

### Correction on Visit of Niger Foreign Minister

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Nigerian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit," published in the 15 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, p 17: column two, only paragraph, only sentence: ...Mahamat Sani Bako, Niger minister of foreign affairs... (changing word "Nigerian" to "Niger")

### Further on Visit of Niger Foreign Minister

### Meets With Al-Talhi

*LD152218 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi" the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau met today "Sani Bako" the minister of foreign affairs and co-cooperation in the Republic of Niger who is visiting Great Jamahiriyah nowadays.

In the meeting, which was attended by the ambassador of Niger to Great Jamahiriyah, they discussed bilateral relations between both friendly countries and the means to back them and develop them in various fields.

### Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD152309 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Sani Bako, Niger minister of foreign affairs and personal envoy of Niger President Colonel Ali Saibou.

The minister expressed the gratitude and appreciation of President Ali Saibou and the Niger people to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people. This is for the solidarity and support that were confirmed by the stands of the Great Jamahiriyah toward the Niger people during their difficult time.

Brother Sani Bako also conveyed a message from Col Ali Saibou that included the desire and sincere intention of Niger to consolidate the cooperative and fraternal ties between the two friendly peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and Niger.

## Mauritania

### Burkinabe Minister Delivers Compaore Message

*AB151042 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Sid' Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, yesterday received the Burkinabe minister of water resources. Also present at the meeting was Soumane Oumar, minister of water supply and energy. At the end of the meeting, Alfred Nombre told the national press that he had delivered to the head of state a message of friendship from his president, Captain Blaise Compaore. [Words indistinct] the excellent relations existing between our two countries. We also discussed the upcoming session of the interstate committee on water resources scheduled to take place in Ouagadougou next February, he added. I listened attentively to the advice given by the president concerning the smooth organization of this meeting.

## Sudan

### Qaysan Reportedly Falls Into Rebel Hands

*PM151527 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Dec 87 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Ethiopians Intervene Again With Artillery Fire—Sudan: Military Source Announces Fall of Qaysan Town Into Rebel Hands"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—A high-ranking Sudanese military source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the border town of Qaysan has fallen into rebel hands following the withdrawal of the Sudanese Armed Forces stationed there.

The military source added: The rebels launched an attack on the region and have been using long-range artillery and missiles since last Tuesday. They have been able to call on firepower superior to the small force stationed in the region, which held out until Thursday when it made a tactical withdrawal.

The source stated that the losses of the Sudanese forces included the martyrdom of Major Hamd Ahmad and eight soldiers. Twenty soldiers, including a lieutenant, are missing. He added: The rebels attacked the region in large numbers, exceeding 10,000. They ringed the town and attacked it from three points. The artillery bombardment started from inside Ethiopian territory; it came from a westerly direction, from the region of (Hardal). [passage omitted]

### Regional Commander Claims Antirebel Successes

*PM151247 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Dec 87 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "High-Ranking Sudanese Military Commander Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Armed Forces Will Teach the Rebels a Severe Lesson in Kurmuk"]

[Text] Khartoum—Eastern Military Region Commander Staff Major General Zayn al-'Abidin Qasamallah has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that preparations to retake Kurmuk are near completion, and that the Armed Forces will teach the rebels a severe lesson. He reaffirmed that the morale of the Armed Forces in the area of operations is high and that they are ready to do battle.

Moreover, the official spokesman for the Armed Forces announced that the rebels sustained big losses following the intensive Air Force bombardment the day before yesterday of rebel concentrations in the Kurmuk region.

He added that the aerial bombardment scored direct hits on specific targets in which the Air Force destroyed a number of defensive positions of rebel concentrations in the region.

An informed military source in the Sudanese Armed Forces headquarters told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Armed Forces have begun to implement various kinds of operations in the region in which they have started to contain and clash with groups of rebels fleeing the aerial bombardment.

On the other hand, a military source said that the Armed Forces are imposing their control on all the areas of the southern region. He indicated that they have carried out active operations and attacked rebel camps in the region of Tekju, south of Waw, where the camp was set alight and the rebels fled from the region, with the Armed Forces sustaining no losses.

### DUP Leader Reports on Visit to Saudi Arabia

*JN151121 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 15 (SUNA)—King Fahd of Saudi Arabia had ordered not to offer any official reception to an Ethiopian delegation whose visit had coincided with a Sudanese delegation visit, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Muhammad 'Uthamn al-Mirghani said.

Al-Mirghani who led the Sudanese delegation said King Fahd had made it clear that no talks will be held with any Ethiopian official as long as Ethiopia is still carrying out agressive acts against Sudan.

The Ethiopian delegation came to Saudi Arabia for obtaining loan from the Saudi monetary fund totaling 200 million dollars.

The loan was suspended according to King Fahd's directives.

### Al-Mirghani Signs 1987 Law Amendments 14 Dec

*JN151737 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 15, (SUNA)—President of the Council of the Head of State [title as received] Ahmad Ali al-Mirghani yesterday signed the provisional order, which was issued by the Council of Ministers, on the various amendments law of 1987, the independent daily AL-SIYASAH Tuesday reported.

By virtue of the latest legal amendments the Article 97 of the penal code, which permits preventive detention of persons, was abolished the paper said.

The amendments also abolished the bail law, which subjects poor persons who fail to pay bails, to remain years in custody, the paper said.

Flogging punishment which characterized the so-called Islamic September 1983 laws was also written off and restricted to only ten hits as a maximum to be applied against delinquent and in Islamic "huddud" punishment, the paper added.

The paper further reported that many amendments were also carried out on civil and penal codes and traffic law, describing as "humanitarian and legal prelude" and a "practical step to abolish the September-hated law" the latest amendments. [sentence as received]

### Taj al-Din Meets With Chadian, French Presidents

For reportage on the visit to France by Council of State member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din to attend the Franco-African summit conference in Antibes, including his talks with Chadian President Hissein Habre and French President Francois Mitterrand, see the France section of the 14 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

## Tunisia

### Prime Minister Discusses New Political Process

*LD122129 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] The House of Representatives this evening heard the prime minister's reply to the debate on the 1988 state budget. He affirmed the need to accustom ourselves to a plurality of views and to differences in political outlooks without extremes or anarchy and within the framework of political ethics and the law. Hedi Baccouche said the government will submit a draft resolution explaining the system of political life in the country and providing bases for political activity and opposition activity in general.

Speaking of the Destourian Socialist Party, the prime minister said that in light of the past of this glorious party and through the formation of a new bureau for the party, radical reforms will be introduced to insure a framework for party activities, which would in turn ensure a better future for Tunisia and safeguard the tide of liberation struggle to keep abreast with the times and be particularly compatible with young people.

With regard to the measures raised in respect to the press, the prime minister pointed out that the government is working on a draft resolution reviewing the laws on journalists and permitting the publication of free opinions. He said journalists are required to be objective and honest and to confirm the veracity of the news. He added that the information media should perform their national role of bolstering relations between citizens and the state's institutions. He pointed out there are certain things which are sacred and which should not be violated because the information media have a responsibility equal to that of the parties in spreading harmony, overcoming grudges, and protecting the reputations of people.

With regard to the new government measures such as the broadcasting of calls to prayer on radio and television and the widening of the powers of the Higher Islamic Council, the prime minister pointed out that they fall within the framework of the true concept of the Islamic religion. He affirmed the government's determination to safeguard Tunisia's Islamic identity, pointing out there is no reason for conflicts among us because our Islam is that of the Prophet Muhammad and it is above all factions.

Replying to deputies' questions concerning trade unionist life, the prime minister affirmed the government's anxiousness to create a comprehensive social peace. He called on all Tunisians to accept the sacrifices dictated by the current conditions to achieve development and

social peace. He said: We want the trade unionist organization to remain strong and coordinated, as Hached [former Tunisian leader killed by the French] wanted it to be.

In the economic sphere the prime minister spoke of private initiative, which he said does not mean the creation of favorable conditions for a specific faction at the expense of another. Overall development demands the participation of all Tunisians in all forms of the economic revival. With regard to unemployment, the prime minister highlighted the government's anxiousness to provide the maximum possible job opportunities, particularly for young people. He spoke in this regard of the measures taken by the government such as early employment and finding jobs for diploma holders.

On the question of regional balance, the prime minister spoke of the additional measures taken by the government for the poorer regions with a view to eliminating the present differences among the various regions and the realization of overall development.

In conclusion, he stressed the need for adherence to courtesy so officials would gain the trust of the citizens and at the same time safeguard the prestige of the state.

House President Rachid Sfar then adjourned the session until Monday, when the budget of the Planning Ministry will be debated.

**Chamber of Deputies Approves Planning Budget**
*LD141505 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1300 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies today began its discussion of the budgets of various ministries by devoting the morning session to reviewing the draft budget of the Ministry of Planning. This budget totals 6.785 million dinars. The draft resolution provides, in particular, for a 2.5 percent increase in GNP at current prices, and for limiting the balance of payments deficit to 380 million dinars. It also limits the development service funds to 29.6 percent, compared to an expected figure of 28.6 percent. [passage omitted] Minister of Planning Mohamed Ghannouchi pointed out that positive results were achieved last year for both economic growth and the balance of payments. This was due to the favorable conditions and the social peace that reigned during that period, and the measures taken during 1986 that made it possible to check any deterioration and to realize an important increase in exports.

In replying to the questions of deputies on the feasibility of boosting local demand, invigorating the economy, creating opportunities for employment, and increasing production and the coordination between higher production and the preservation of the vocational policy, the minister announced the adoption of measures to free investment. He affirmed there is nothing to impede productive private investments.

He also noted that the agricultural sector enjoys first priority in the development plan and that many concessions have been granted to the agricultural sector. This is to bolster self-sufficiency in food, increase exports, and strengthen agriculture in the southern regions.

With regard to foreign indebtedness, the minister of planning indicated that we had to borrow to complement our own resources. He then pointed out that our indebtedness amounts to 26 percent, compared to more than 60 percent in other countries.

As for debt rescheduling, the minister noted that we have asked the advanced countries to facilitate conditions for loans and to find radical international solutions for the problems of the developing countries' indebtedness. He pointed out that Tunisia had no interest in rescheduling, for this only provides a short-term solution—and nothing more—and also because Tunisia's economic conditions have improved markedly. As a result of this, we have perceived readiness on the part of international financiers and financial institutions to provide the necessary financial support for Tunisia. This is particularly the case following the change that took place in our country on 7 November. [passage omitted]

At the close of the session, the deputies unanimously approved the draft budget of the Ministry of Planning.

## Inter-Gulf Affairs

### Iran Attacks Greek Tanker; None Injured

*NC161057 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1030 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] This morning, an Iranian gunboat opened fire on the 30,000-ton Greek tanker "World Produce" off Ra's al-Khaymah, near the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf.

Sources in Dubayy said that two missiles hit the tanker. One struck the engine room while the other struck the cabin area for the crew. A fire that broke out was extinguished by the crew, and no crew members were injured. Tugboats are on the scene waiting to tow the "World Produce" into Dubayy port for repairs.

## Kuwait

### Oil Minister Returns From Vienna, Views Accord

*LD152221 Kuwait KUNA in English 1812 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 15 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Abdi returned home Tuesday evening and said upon arrival from Vienna that OPEC's new production and prices agreement could stabilize world oil markets if all signatory members adhered to terms of that accord.

But Shaykh 'Ali warned, in a statement to KUNA, "that Kuwait would defend its interests in ways which it sees appropriate if it were established that any members was violating its OPEC-decreed production quota."

Twelve OPEC oil ministers had signed early today a six-month accord effective from January fixing the official price at 18 dollars a barrel and the organization's production ceiling at 15.06 million barrels a day (b/d) after absolving Iraq from any official quota.

The Iraqi delegation had refused to sign the agreement after its request for quota parity with Iran's 2.4 million (b/d) was not granted.

The new accord, reached after seven days of talks, allotted Kuwait a production quota of 996,000 (b/d) throughout the first half of the new year.

### Egyptian Defense Minister on Talks, Security

*LD161324 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1004 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] [No place-name as received] 16 Dec (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim today stressed the determination of the Kuwaiti political leadership to keep Kuwait secure, stable, and far from the furnaces of war raging in the Arabian Gulf.

He added that the political leadership, and its heads his highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, have affirmed their persistence in warding evil away from Kuwait as much as possible. They have accomplished this through diplomatic channels and at the highest levels.

In a speech to the graduation ceremony of the 16th class of enlisted officers, the defense minister stated that the reregistration of Kuwaiti tankers was a purely economic measure and that it had no connection with the prolongation of the Gulf war or the kindling of a third world war, as some international media have claimed.

The graduation ceremony of the 16th class of enlisted officers was also attended by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and military production, and his accompanying delegation; Staff Brigadier Khalid al-Jabir al-Sabah, acting chief of the General Staff [name and title as received], and Faysal 'Ali al-Dawud, under secretary at the Defense Ministry.

In a statement to journalists on the occasion, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah expressed his happiness over what he had observed in the ceremony and said: "I am proud of the Kuwaiti people. Among them are these educated young men who have reached this level of training under the auspices of the amir and the defence minister." He added that this level of training "makes me confident that the Arab nation is in good condition and that we are following the correct path in constructing our Arab nation."

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said his current talks with Kuwait officials have concerned everything relating to the situation in the Arabian Gulf and bilateral cooperation between Kuwait and the Arab Republic of Egypt. He also stressed that military coordination between the two countries exists as it did in the past and as it inevitably will in the future. He then referred to Kuwaiti and Egyptian national security as a part of Arab security, which is indivisible.

### Al-'Usaymi Receives PNC Deputy Speaker

*LD142106 Kuwait KUNA in English 1621 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 14 (KUNA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi Monday met with Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council and member of the Central Committee of Fatah Movement Salim Za'nun and Director of the PLO Office in Kuwait 'Awni Battash.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situations at the Palestinian arena, the popular uprising against the Israeli occupation forces and the brutal Zionist repression against the population there.

Al-'Usaymi also received Director of the Middle East Section in the Strategic Studies Center and former American Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Robert Newman.

It was learnt that during the meeting the two exchanged views on developments in the region particularly those related to the Iraq-Iran war.

## PDRY

### New Provincial Commissioners Announced

*EA101821 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has issued 22 decrees by the chairman of the Council of Ministers on the appointment of provincial commissioners in Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, Hadramawt, and Al-Mahrah Governates. In their first articles, the decrees provide for the following appointments of provincial commissioners for Lahij Governorate: Brother 'Abdallah 'Ali Naji, commissioner of Tuban Province; Brother 'Abd al-Rahim 'Abdallah, commissioner of Yafi Province; Brother Muhammad Tahir Mas'ud, commissioner of Al-Dali Province; Brother Salim Salih Dirah, commissioner of Tawr al-Bahkah Province.

They provide for the following appointments of provincial commissioners for Abyan Governorate:

Brother 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Dumani, commissioner of Khanfar Province; Brother Sa'id Muhammad Mahdi, commissioner of Lawdah Province; Brother Nasir 'Abdallah al-'Uwaydani, commissioner of Mudiyah Province; Brother Muhammad 'Ali Hadi, commissioner of Rusud Province.

They also provide for the following appointments of provincial commissioners for Shabwah Governorate:

Brother 'Ali bin 'Ali Hadi, commissioner of Nisab Province; Brother Ahmad Farid Zayfir, commissioner of Mayfa' Province; Brother Nasir Salim 'Abd al-Tayyib, commissioner of ('Aima) Province; Brother Ahmad Mubarak Laqlaf, commissioner of al-Sa'id Province; Brother Salih Nasir Sultan, commissioner of Bayhan Province.

They provide for the following appointments of provincial commissioners of Hadramawt Governorate:

Brother [name indistinct], commissioner of Al-Qatn Province; Brother Muhammad 'Umar Rawid, commissioner of Hajar Province; Brother Salim 'Umar Ba Harshan, commissioner of Al-Mukalla Province; Brother Jaman Ramadan Humadi, commissioner of Daw'an Province; Brother Birik 'Abud Nasir, commissioner of Al-Shihr Province.

They also provide for the following appointments of provincial commissioners for Al-Mahrah Governorate:

Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah Kiddah, commissioner of Qishn Province; Brother Salih Salim Amir, commissioner of Al-Ghaydah al-Khadra' Province; Brother 'Awad Muhammad Habud, commissioner of (Tawq) Province; Brother 'Isa Ahmad 'Isa, commissioner of Sayhut Province.

The remaining articles of these decrees provide for the revocation of any previous appointments to these posts and for these appointments to be implemented from the date of their issue and publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

## Saudi Arabia

### Ministers Condemn Iranian Actions, 'Intrigue'

*LD142144 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy moscques, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh this afternoon.

After the session, Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that the council began its meeting by acquainting itself with the report and the recommendations made by the enlarged ministerial committee entrusted with examining the main bases and general outlines of the state budget for 1987-88.

The council resumed discussion of these recommendations and the ensuing changes that could be introduced into the general structure of the budget in accordance with expected revenues and existing expenditures.

Minister al-Sha'ir noted: "In light of the results achieved by the council due to its discussions, and in accordance with his [as received] noble guidance, this body has approved a number of recommendations and referred the remainder to the enlarged ministerial committee. These recommendations will be reviewed there further before being submitted to the next session to define the general framework that the state will use as a basis for the new budget."

Minister al-Sha'ir added: "Afterward, the custodian of the two holy mosques informed the council about the results of his meetings and talks this week with prominent guests of the Kingdom. Foremost among these visitors was His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He also discussed those who came to our country from friendly and fraternal states.

"The beloved king clarifed for the council some of the stands the Kingdom adopted on the issues covered in the talks with the guests and the envoys."

The minister of information continued: "With the political and media reports, the Council of Ministers was informed about the campaigns of intrigue and confusion that the Iranian media continue to launch against the Saudi Kingdom. The council also learned how the Tehran rulers are resorting to strange practices such as holding imaginary conferences and hostile seminars. At these events, speakers willingly or unwillingly compete with one another to level accusations against the Kingdom and the Arab states and their leaders under the cover of the sanctity of the two holy mosques.

"In this respect, the Council of Ministers expressed its condemnation and denunciation of these hostile and rancorous methods used by Iran. It also condemned and denounced the abominable fallacies, the fabrications, and the accusations that the Tehran rulers rehash day and night. They do this while ignoring the serious crimes they committed in holy Mecca and while disregarding the innocent victims among the pilgrims and the Saudi citizens and security forces. The latter were carrying out their duties, to guarantee the safety of pilgrims for performing their rites in peace and tranquillity. Instead, however, we hear that the Tehran rulers mention only their dead, who were trampled by their own demonstrators when they retreated before the security forces who prevented them from storming the holy mosque. At that time, reports on this were announced by the Saudi media. These reports were supported by pictures and sound, and were witnessed by 1.5 million pilgrims."

The minister of information further stated: "In this respect, the council reviewed some of the rational and sound positions the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted toward the repeated Iranian aggression over the past 5 years. During this period, the Kingdom has attempted by all possible means to respond to wrongdoing with positive actions, and to tackle the aggressive attitudes of the Tehran government with calm, farsightedness, and self-restraint. These were sometimes exercised through diplomatic channels and sometimes through mediators from among the brother leaders of Arab and Islamic countries. The Kingdom has constantly sought to improve relations with Iran, in the hope that the Tehran rulers would engage in self-examination, regain their senses, and return to the right path.

"Nothing proves this more that the fact that Saudi Arabia turned a blind eye to the heinous Khomeynist crime of loading 95 suitcases packed with 51 kg of explosives on an Iranian aircraft and sending them to the holy places in September and October 1986. This plane carried Iranian pilgrims who, as investigations showed, knew nothing about what Khomeyni and his aides had planned with his conspiracy against the sanctities and rites of Muslims."

Minister al-Sha'ir continued: "On the other hand, the council was informed about the campaigns of condemnation and denunciation launched daily against the Tehran rulers by scholars, theologians, imams, intellectuals, and newsmen in various countries of the Islamic world.

"The council viewed this Islamic stand as the voice of right, one that spoke out in defense of the safety of the two holy mosques and for the protection of these holy sites from the confused dreams of Khomeyni and Rafsanjani.

"The council stated that these strong, faithful voices reflected an unequivocal disawoval of those frantic Iranian campaigns which are laughed at by everyone everywhere." [passage omitted]

## United Arab Emirates

### PRC Official Meets With Minister 'Abdallah

*JN121617 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1356 GMT 12 Dec 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH)—The UAE has reiterated the need to implement Security Council Resolution 598 as soon as possible to end the Iraq-Iran war. Because of this, it urged the PRC, a permanent member of the Security Council, to make greater efforts to implement this resolution.

This came during a meeting today between Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and Yang Fuchang, director of the West Asian and North African Department at the PRC Foreign Ministry [title as received], who is currently visiting the UAE.

A responsible source at the UAE Foreign Ministry said that the PRC side stressed Beijing's readiness to achieve this goal by employing its relations with both Iraq and Iran and by exerting efforts through the UN Security Council. The PRC side also expressed its readiness to discuss any Security Council draft resolution to implement Resolution 598.

### Departs 14 Dec

*JN141358 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 14 Dec (WAM)—Yang Fuchang, director of the West Asian Department at the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs [title as received], departed for Muscat today following a visit to the UAE. A number of officials saw him off from Al-Shariqah International Airport.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### Further on Visit of Soviet Economic Delegation

### Joint Committee Talks Open

*JN130812 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] The second session of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, technical, and trade cooperation began at the Central Department for Planning

yesterday. The two sides were led by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of planning, head of the Central Department for Planning, and member of the Standing Committee; and Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

At the beginning of the session, Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar welcomed the friendly Soviet delegation. He expressed confidence that the current session of the Yemeni-Soviet committee will reach interesting results that will strengthen bilateral relations to advanced stages and will open up new horizons for cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples. [passage omitted]

The deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet delegation to the joint committee replied with a speech that expressed appreciation for our country's stands and historical relations with the Soviet Union. He noted that our country and the Yemeni people were among the first countries and peoples to establish relations of cooperation with the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

The committee then reviewed the issues listed on the agenda. A number of specialized technical subcommittees emerged from the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee and yesterday began meeting to implement the tasks contained on the session agenda.

Our representatives at the meetings were Brothers Dr Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri, minister of agriculture and fisheries and member of the Standing Committee; the under secretaries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources; the assistant under secretary of the Central Department for Planning; and a number of specialists in relevant fields. Participating for the Soviet side were Kushchidi, deputy minister of the construction materials industry; and a number of heads, managers, and officials of the Soviet economic establishment.

## Economic Ties Reviewed

*JN141351 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, this morning received Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet delegation to the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic and technical cooperation. The two officials reviewed the outcome of the committee meetings, and 'Abd al-Ghani expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the second session. The meeting was attended by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al- 'Attar, deputy prime minister, head of the Central Department for Planning, and member of the Standing Committee; and the Soviet ambassador to Sanaa.

Meanwhile, Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of economy, supply, and trade, today met with the Soviet delegation to the joint committee. The two sides reviewed economic and technical cooperation between the YAR and the USSR. They additionally explored ways to promote trade, guided by protocols signed by the friendly countries. The sides agreed to develop and promote bilateral ties, especially in the fields of industry, construction, ports, research, agricultural and geological projects, and the training of personnel. Both sides also agreed on the need to increase commodity exchanges and mutual visits. The meeting was attended by brothers the under secretary at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade; the assistant under secretary at the Central Department for Planning; and a number of officials from the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade, the Central Bank, and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

## Meets With Al-'Iryani

*JN151413 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, today received Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The visitor is leading the Soviet delegation to the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic and technical cooperation. The two officials discussed how to promote relations between the friendly countries, while the Soviet ambassador to Sanaa also attended the talks.

## Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

### Military Actions Detailed

*JN151432 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1421 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—As a result of their military operations, the Iraqi Armed Forces have killed five Iranians, destroyed six machineguns, two infantry positions, and five observation posts, and damaged a large vehicle.

A military spokesman told INA today that during the Iraqi Armed Forces' military activities last night and today, they also blew up two ammunition dumps and foiled an attempt by three Iranian gunboats to approach Al-'Amiq Port in southern Iraq, forcing them to flee.

### Communique No 2,951

*JN151718 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Communique No 2,951 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued with their military activities last night and today. They inflicted further losses on the aggressors as follows:

1. Two enemy scoundrels were killed and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

2. Three enemy soldiers were killed, four machineguns, one infantry position, and four observation posts were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

3. Two heavy machineguns were destroyed, one large vehicle was damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. Three enemy gunboats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port last night. The port force confronted them, forcing them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 December 1987

### Fighting in North Denied

*JN151924 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has rebutted Iranian claims of fighting in the Salah al-Din and Kuysanjag areas, stressing that security has been firmly established in the north. In a statement to INA this evening, the military spokesman said: We have grown accustomed to hearing such lies occasionally issued by the Iranian rulers to feed their lying propaganda machine.

### 'Large Maritime Target' Hit

*JN160600 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 16 December 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To implement the will of our great people in tearing apart the arteries supplying oil to the aggressor Iranian regime, our heroic pilots scored an accurate and effective hit upon a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at midnight [2100 GMT on 15 December] last night. Our pilots returned safely to the homeland, protected by God.

[Dated] 16 December 1987

### 2 More 'Maritime Targets' Hit

*JN161253 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1232 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 16 December 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our gigantic Air Force will continue to be the lofty symbol and power against the criminal Iranian regime. The pillars of backwardness, ignorance, and aggression will continue to collapse under the painful blows of our Air Force. To prevent this reckless regime from using its oil resources to carry out aggression against our country, the following missions were carried out in God's care:

1. At 0945 [0645 GMT] today, our planes carried out a successful raid on a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast and dealt it an accurate and effective blow.

2. At 1245 today, our daring planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a second large maritime target off the Iranian coast.

After carrying out these missions, our planes returned safely to the homeland, God be praised.

The number of maritime targets which our valiant hawks hit at midnight and later today now totals three.

[Dated] 16 December 1987

### Gaza Palestinians Said To Hold 2 U.S. Reporters

*NC161237 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 16 (AFP)—Palestinian demonstrators claimed Wednesday they were holding two U.S. journalists and threatened to kill them if Israeli soldiers attacked the Al-Shifa' Hospital in the Gaza Strip.

"We will kill them if the (Israeli) Army comes near," shouted in English a crowd of Palestinian demonstrators at the Al-Shifa' Hospital which they occupy, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE photographer at the scene reported.

The identity of the two journalists presumed to be held by the Palestinians was not known.

Palestinian demonstrators stormed the hospital to prohibit Israeli troops from entering the building to remove the wounded being treated there.

Four Palestinian demonstrators were wounded by gunshots Wednesday in clashes with Israeli forces and are hospitalised at Al-Shifa', the Palestine Press Service reported.

The East Jerusalem-based agency said that a fifth Palestinian who was beaten up by Israeli border guards was also treated at the hospital which is besieged by Israeli security forces.

Earlier in the day, Palestinian demonstrators attacked an AFP correspondent's vehicle. The previous day a NEW YORK TIMES photographer was pelted with stones by Palestinian youths and hospitalised.

A foreign television crew was also attacked but its members were not hurt.

### Gaza Riots Spread to 'Almost Every Street'

*TA151630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Severe disturbances continued this afternoon in Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that IDF forces entered the premises of Al-Shifa' Hospital to disperse a riot which broke out after the day's casualties had been brought in.

Reinforced IDF troops are patroling the streets of Gaza, arresting rioters. A barricade of burning tires was erected at the Al-Shaja'iyah intersection.

The riots have spread to almost every street in the city, and it is difficult at this stage to estimate their extent.

### 3 Casualties Reported

*TA151720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Three local residents were killed today in disturbances in the Gaza Strip: one in Bayt Hanun, one in Dayr al-Balah in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, and one in Jabalyah. The latter was killed at the entrance of Al-Shifa' Hospital in the course of the riots that took place there.

### Molotov Cocktails Thrown

*TA151835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown tonight at an IDF patrol near Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. There were no casualties and no damage was done. [passage omitted]

### 5 Killed, 11 Wounded 15 Dec

*TA160712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] The Gaza Strip: During the night it was confirmed that 5 residents were killed and 11 wounded during yesterday's violent clashes with security forces. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 16 December carries a report by 'Ezra Yanuv which says: "Three youths from Gaza lost their lives yesterday in two serious riots during which they futilely attempted to take over and block main highways in the Gaza Strip. Another eight local youths were wounded in the course of serious disturbances in Dayr al-Balah, Gaza, and Bayt Hanun. A youth and an adult, who had been wounded in earlier riots at the beginning of the week, died of their injuriess at the Shiba and Barzilay Hospitals in the last 2 days."]

The Army last night sent in reinforcements and provided new equipment for dispersing rioters. [passage omitted]

### Disturbances Continue 16 Dec

*TA160855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Disturbances are continuing today in the Gaza Strip and in East Jerusalem. The ITIM correspondent reports that early this morning agitators in the Gaza Strip called on residents not to leave for work in Israel. Roads and central intersections in the area and in the city of Gaza were blocked by barricades and burning tires. Security troops were reinforced during the night. The IDF is taking steps to prevent further rioting.

The road to the Intercontinental Hotel on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem's Al-Tur neighborhood was blocked. Youths hurled stones, set tires on fire, and overturned garbage carts on the road. The police used a tractor to clear the road. Policemen also used tear gas to disperse the rioters.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that there were stone-throwing incidents in Jerusalem this morning in the vicinity of the High Commissioner's Palace and Bayt Hanina. Three stonethrowers were arrested near the village of Al-Ram, north of Jerusalem.

There is an almost complete commercial strike in East Jerusalem today.

### Molotov Cocktail by Al-Shifa'

*TA161320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Disturbances have intensified in the Gaza Strip. Stones and iron bars are being thrown in Gaza, and tires are being set on fire in alleys. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol outside the Al-Shifa' Hospital. No one was hurt and no damage was done. A Voice of Israel crew was pelted with stones and a window of its car was smashed, but no one was injured.

Troops managed to open the main highway route and the road bypassing Gaza this morning, but traffic is sparse. IDF soldiers avoid unnecessary friction with the population and refrain from entering alleys and refugee camps.

Jerusalem, too, was the scene of disturbances and the police made several arrests. Crowds of young Arabs were dispersed with tear gas. They had been blocking roads with burning tires and hurling stones at passing cars. No one was hurt and no damage was done.

A commercial and school strike continues in East Jerusalem. At present it is quiet in East and North Jerusalem.

### Riots Around Al-Shifa'

*TA161513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] An IDF soldier was stabbed in Rafah this afternoon, sustaining some injuries to his shoulder. The other soldiers on the same IDF patrol fired at the local people who had congregated in the area, wounding three. One sustained medium injuries, and the two others were slightly wounded.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a resident of the Nusayrat refugee camp was hurt by shots. Right now there are riots in the vicinity of Gaza's Al-Shifa' Hospital and minor disturbances in the Jabalyah area.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron toured the Jabalyah refugee camp today.

### Bi'r Zayt Students Stage Peaceful Protest

*TA151431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Hundreds of Bi'r Zayt University students took part in a demonstration this afternoon, circling around the campus and carrying PLO flags. Ibrahim Shahid, the Voice of Israel's Arabic program correspondent, reports that after the demonstration the students quietly reentered the university and later dispersed. The IDF force that had closed off the area barring Israelis from the scene did not intervene.

### No Damage From Explosive Charge in Qiryat Gat

*TA142122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] An explosive charge blew up this evening under a military truck in Qiryat Gat. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. The police have arrested several people for interrogation.

### Press Comment on Situation in Territories

*TA161129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] 'AL HAMISHMAR says that the unambiguous and unprecedented harsh denunciation by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, shows that the United States, as well as the international community, will not keep quiet about the serious steps taken against the civilian population in the administered territories. The newspaper adds that despite the rejection of peace by the Likud and its satellites, ultimately there will be no choice but to proceed toward a political solution of the problem—a solution that would rid Israel of the burden of ruling over another nation.

DAVAR writes that what Camp David gave can be taken away if another Camp David does not take place. The harsh U.S. reactions to the events in the territories, which are no less significant than the memorandum of understanding signed by Israel and the United States in Washington this week, are a reminder of the absence of an understanding.

HAMODI'A says that the memorandum of understanding obliges the Israeli Government to consider new ways which could ultimately bring about tranquility in the territories. For the time being, however, it is hard to tell what ways would lead to this end.

HA'ARETZ writes that if what is happening in the territories is not a civil uprising but merely a fit of rage by a few unimaginative punks which will die down within a few days, why did the prime minister get so worked up about the media and the Labor Party and

hold them responsible for the deterioration of the situation and for endangering the security borders won in the 6-Day War? He must make up his mind whether this is a serious or temporary situation. It cannot be both. According to the paper, throughout his career in the government Mr Shamir has not made any decisions, and he wants to keep this record intact until the end of his tenure. It is hard to believe how such a small mind can have such a big mouth, as the paper phrases it.

## Civilian Administrator Interviewed on Unrest

*TA130850 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
*0600 GMT 13 Dec 87*

[Telephone interview with Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you, Brig Gen Erez. Senior military sources are cited in all media this morning as saying that the territories are on the brink of a civilian uprising. Do you share this assessment?

[Erez] I do not share this assessment. We know there will be ups and downs in the territories as far as disturbances are concerned. This is not new. I assume and hope that the current wave of disturbances will subside and that we will be able to return to normal life.

[Dan] Would the words loss of control correctly describe the situation?

[Erez] In Judaea and Samaria?

[Dan] Yes.

[Erez] No, no loss of control. In my opinion, we are in full control of the situation. The results are indeed not positive. We are not happy about the loss of life under any circumstances, but the situation is far from being described as loss of control. Matters are pinpointed, clearly defined, and under full control. We remember far graver phenomena in the territories in the past, far more violent and aggressive ones. This time the focus is in certain places, particularly the refugee camps. The incidents are inspired by forces outside the region. The PLO exerts pressure to create unrest, in contrast to our desire to maintain normal life. The decisive majority of the inhabitants also wants to lead a normal life.

[Friedman] Why now, then? What is the reason for the timing and the intensity of the incidents?

[Erez] There are a few reasons for the timing. One of them is what happened in the Gaza Strip, when a traffic accident was construed as a reaction to the murder there of the late Mr Saqal. The rumors which were spread led to pressures that in turn led to the disturbances, with the attendant results. The dynamics involved in disturbances gradually increase at first, but they also finally gradually subside. After all, we all know there is one big and complex problem which is occasionally expressed in violence.

[Dan] You are painting a rosier picture to us than what we hear otherwise. What scenario do you draw for subsequent developments?

[Erez] I am not trying to paint a rosy picture. I am trying to describe the situation in a balanced and correct way, as I observe it. The violence was concentrated in a single refugee camp. Later, yesterday, we saw it in several camps or several towns in a limited context of not particularly large-scale disturbances. Also, I and other Civilian Administration officers yesterday met with prominent persons, notables, and heads of local councils throughout Judaea and Samaria, ranging from Hebron to Janin. We passed on a message emphasizing the desire to return to normal life. We heard the same thing in response from these notables and leaders. All this gives room for optimism. Nevertheless, we, the Central Command, are definitely trying to establish public order in a certain camp, Balatah in this case, where the violence is centered. Doing so, trying to control hostile elements, has its results sometimes, of course.

[Friedman] In your opinion, what could have happened to that military command car in Gaza or to that group of soldiers this week, had the soldiers not tried to fire shots and rescue themselves from the crowd encircling them?

[Erez] The instructions for opening fire are of a standing, unchanged nature, the main point of which is not to shoot with the purpose of hitting and killing. In both incidents you mentioned the soldiers found themselves in a situation which, in their opinion and that of their commanders, could have resulted in injuries among them. Some of them were indeed wounded. The soldiers and policemen involved in the Balatah incident were wounded. Their lives were clearly endangered.

[Dan] How can one calm tempers, in your opinion? Is a heavy-handed policy one of the ways?

[Erez] Tempers are calmed down through constant presence and information. We deal with these two levels constantly. When the situation loses its normal proportions, we do this more intensively. In this case there was a military presence to make it clear to the instigators that we will definitely maintain public order and not be deterred by their actions. In addition, there were meetings with notables, with heads of local councils and others, to explain that this indeed was the goal of the presence. It is important for me to emphasize, it is important that everybody knows, that we receive appeals from the public there, from the residents of the refugee camps, to establish order. They too are suffering from the lack of public order.

[Friedman] Brig Gen Shay Erez, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, thank you very much.

[Erez] Thank you.

### Labor Says Likud Responsible For Current Unrest

*TA141544 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Dec 87 pp A1, 2*

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Reacting to the communique issued by Herut yesterday, the Labor Party says that "the slogans voiced by Likud leaders cannot conceal the fact that the policy of curbing any attempt to promote peace negotiations is causing a hardening on the part of the inhabitants of the territories. The Likud must understand that only negotiations coupled with a willingness to give up on densely populated Arab areas will lead to a genuine solution."

The Labor Party adds: "It is a shame that instead of talking about what is important the Likud continues its instigatory attempts, which only increase the polarization of the nation."

### Shamir Accuses Labor of 'Defeatist Reaction'

*TA142012 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this evening that Israel is experiencing a wave of defeatist reaction that wants to take the country back to the days when the Arabs managed to put our existence in doubt. The prime minister made these remarks in a speech at the Rafi-Ometz Center at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv. Our party affairs correspondent Dan Raviv has excerpts from the prime minister's speech:

[Begin videorecording] [Raviv] The prime minister lashed out at the Labor Party, accusing it of radicalizing its position toward the left, of defeatist reaction, of preferring partisan interests over national ones, and even of intimidating the people by saying that we should get out of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This has the effect of driving it into dispute and political confrontation precisely at a time when the Army is in a serious and sensitive situation. Why are Labor Party leaders doing that? This was the answer of the prime minister and Likud leader this evening:

[Shamir] I cannot rid myself of the thought that their only motive driving them along this dangerous road is to grab and hang onto exclusive rule in Israel. The only means to do that is to raise and wave the banner of peace. I am sure that the Israeli people will realize this ploy and delusion and will understand that they are being led astray. [end recording]

### Rabin Defends Policy in West Bank, Gaza

*TA151755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently visiting Washington, has said that Israel and the United States have differed for years over the measures adopted by Israel to enforce law and order in the territories.

In a meeting with Israeli correspondents, Mr Rabin confirmed that U.S. Administration officials had reiterated their opposition to the policy of deportations and administrative arrests. Mr Rabin explained to these officials that the measures they propose implementing by means of a civilian judicial system have been adopted within the framework of Israel's fight against terrorism but not against disturbances. According to him, the indefinite judicial status of the territories is one of the reasons for what is happening today. Nevertheless, he believes that Israel must leave the situation as it is because this is the only chance that may ultimately lead to an agreement.

### Proposal To Close Territories to Media Denied

*TA151557 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser says that no operational proposal was made during the recent discussion between the prime minister and the chief of staff on closing Judaea and Samaria to journalists. Earlier, our Knesset correspondent reported that the premier today told a delegation of National Religious Party leaders that he had discussed with the chief of staff the negative effects created by media coverage of developments in the territories. In the course of the conversation, the possibility of declaring Judaea and Samaria a military region off-bounds to journalists was discussed. But the prime minister's media adviser, Avi Pazner, a short time ago published a statement saying it was not an operational proposal.

### Civil Administration Warns on Unrest Coverage

*TA151856 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] Ramallah—Civilian Adminstration authorities in Bet El last night issued a strongly worded warning to AL-NAHAR, claiming that during the past few days the newspaper had persisted in publishing what was described as provocative pictures and items that expose public order to danger. Furthermore, the warning stated that the newspaper had not taken care to show these pictures and items to the military censor according to the observed laws and regulations.

The warning added that the Civilian Administration views this matter with immense gravity and that it will study the possibility of banning the distribution of AL-NAHAR in the West Bank for various periods as the situation requires if the newspaper continues its violations.

It is worth noting that this is the second warning that Al-NAHAR has received within the last 2 months.

### Editorial on Publication Ban in West Bank, Gaza

*TA151929 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec 87 p 1*

[Editorial: "A New Link"]

[Text] In one of the Israeli measures against national newspapers and institutions in the occupied territories, the Israeli authorities decided yesterday to ban the distribution of AL-SHA'B in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for 12 days. This measure is the second of its kind in a month. The Israeli authorities had taken a similar measure against AL-SHA'B on 14 November, which lasted until the 20th of the month.

The noteworthy thing about the new Israeli measure is that, as usual, it is based on the same pretexts used by the authorities in the previous list of measures against AL-SHA'B and its colleagues in the national press. These pretexts lack any logic.

If we add the new Israeli measure against AL-SHA'B to yesterday's decision by the Israeli Cabinet, in which it affirmed its resolve to continue with its stated policy, we can understand the meaning of this Israeli measure against the national press which has been exposed lately to a large-scale campaign of provocation by more than one Israeli official calling for the closure of Arab newspapers and magazines.

## Further Comments on Disturbances in Territories

### 'Iron Fist' Policy Condemned

*TA151637 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 13 Dec 87 p 5*

[Editorial: "Israel's 'Iron Fist' Mars Christmas Peace"]

[Text] While the Christian world is preparing to celebrate Christmas, Israel is making sure that the birthplace of Christ remains without the peace to which it is entitled.

This last week has witnessed several events which disrupted any chance for the peace that everyone desires. Killings, detentions, expulsions, and expropriation of property befell many Palestinian homes.

Israeli soldiers opened fire at Gaza students, killing two and wounding many others. The students were expressing frustration at the occupation and its "iron fist" policy in the occupied areas.

Elsewhere in the occupied areas, two Palestinians are awaiting orders expelling them from their homeland and families for God knows how long. In Ramallah, the Israeli authorities arrested Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists' Association and editor of AL-'AWEDAH magazine, placing him in administrative detention for six months.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli Government used a relatively large contingent of border guards and police to take over the Palestinian-owned Jerusalem Electric Company. The government invoked the Emergency Regulations to enforce this move.

Through force and coercion, and with an iron fist, Israel is making sure that Palestinians in the occupied areas do not celebrate the peace and tranquility the Christmas season is supposed to bring to the world. This peace is presently being given superpower endorsement at the Washington summit.

Instead of working for peace, the Israeli Government is adding fuel to the fire and provoking the Palestinian population. Israeli Minister of Trade and Industry Ari'el Sharon is planning to move into a house in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City Muslim Quarter. All his neighbors will be Arabs. Sharon is not thinking of coexistence, known as he is for his disregard for Palestinians and as an advocate of their expulsion. Sharon's presence there will exacerbate anti-Arab sentiment among Jewish settlers in the area and encourage more hardliners to come and live in the Old City. With this action, tension is bound to increase and probably lead to friction, possibly even bloodshed.

Yet, the Israeli Government is doing nothing to intervene. Instead, Israeli defense minister Rabin assures Tehiya member Ge'ula Kohen that the government will continue using arrests and expulsions to "quell" the Palestinian population. This remark was very much to Kohen's liking, wanting as she does, the government to come down with a powerful iron fist on the entire Palestinian population regardless of age or gender.

In spite of these anti-peace moves by Israeli officials, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir still dares to say that Israel is the one seeking peace in the area while its neighbours are the belligerents. In truth Israel is the one opposed to peace as all its actions indicate. Unless Israel takes real steps to show goodwill toward the Palestinian population, it cannot expect Arabs to be the only ones seeking peace. Genuine peace requires good intentions from both parties to a conflict, not only from one.

### Balatah Camp Unrest Analyzed

*TA140745 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Dec 87 p 2*

[Analysis by Joel Greenberg: "What Lies Behind the Balatah Unrest"]

[Text] The wave of violence in the Balatah refugee camp is linked to a recently launched security crackdown spearheaded by Border Police sent into camp last week.

Senior military sources said the crackdown was begun several weeks ago, after unrest at the camp threatened to make it an off-limits zone for Israeli security forces.

Under tight internal organization maintained by the PLO's Al-Shabibah youth movement, the camp erupted with stone-throwing protests and demonstrations every time an Israeli force entered. Women and children were sent out onto the streets.

"The aim was to turn Balatah into an example and symbol, to be emulated by other refugee camps and throughout the West Bank," said one source.

According to the security forces, the camp has been under PLO gang rule. Roving bands of youths, some wearing black capes concealing their faces and armed with truncheons and spiked clubs, terrorized the population into cooperating with them.

Persons considered collaborators with Israel were pulled out of their homes at night and beaten, and some had their cars burned, according to the sources. Men working in Israel were targeted, as well as women considered "immoral."

"Life became unbearable in the camp, and we began receiving appeals from camp residents," said the source.

It was decided to maintain a 24-hour presence in the camp to restore order and to prevent it from becoming an extraterritorial stronghold of PLO elements. The Border Police were chosen for the task, and sent in with a mandate to pursue and catch stone-throwers, to break up demonstrations, and to crack down on rioters.

The sources said the rationale for using the Border Police was its riot-control experience, and the possibility of stationing its forces permanently in the camp, so they could get to know its population and physical layout.

The aim, said the sources, is the restoration of normality in the camp, for the ultimate benefit of its inhabitants.

As to reports of vandalism and brutality by the police, the sources say the matter will be investigated and if improper behaviour had occured, measures would be taken to prevent it recurring. If the Border Police proved unfit for their task they will be withdrawn, the sources said.

### Shamir on Sharon Move, IDF Action

*TA152027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes the IDF can take any action it deems proper and correct to defuse the disturbances in the territories. Speaking this evening to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, Mr Shamir said he had discussed with the chief of staff the possibility of closing certain zones to the media during disturbances in order to, among other things, prevent journalists from coming to any harm.

Referring to the housewarming of Minister Ari'el Sharon's new residence in the Muslim Quarter in Jerusalem, the prime minister said there was nothing extraordinary about this, pointing out that Sharon was not the first Jew to reside in the area.

### Sharon Jerusalem Move Called 'Provocative'

*TA151947 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Dec 87 pp 1,11*

[Editorial: "Provocative Acts Whose Results Are Known"]

[Excerpts] Conforming with his usual custom of embarking on unprecedented acts, Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade Ari'el Sharon will come today to Arab Jerusalem to reside in a confiscated house in the Muslim Quarter. By doing this he wants to do what others have not done, without thinking about the outcome and the consequences of his action.

At a time in which the occupied territories are witnessing what can at least be described as a state of instability, Sharon, instead of striving to calm down feelings, which is the slogan raised by Israel's news media and its political leadership, persists in his position, knowing that it will result in unforseen consequences and will lead to an outburst of emotions and an escalation of tension. [passage omitted]

We appreciate the positions of some prudent Israelis, including Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who have denounced Sharon's conduct. Kollek stressed that the appropriation of an apartment in Arab Jerusalem and its transformation into a home for Sharon will not bring glory to the Israeli people but will drive the Palestinian people to further violence.

The participation, however, of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the celebration that will be held at the home, and the readiness by the minister of energy to link the home to the Israeli electricity network, prompt one to ask justly whether Sharon alone stands behind his decision. Or is he leading the Israeli Government to a situation similar to that of 1982 when he drove the Israeli Army into the quagmire of Lebanon, remembering that it was difficult for the Israelis to emerge from that Sharonite embroilment. Will prudent people on the Israeli side try to prevent history from repeating itself?

### Demonstrations Mark Sharon Housewarming

*TA160640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Summary] More than 100 "prominent" Israelis, including ministers, Knesset Members, leaders of the Likud Party, and former Army commanders, attended the

dedication of Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon's house in the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City last night. One of Sharon's guests was Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who "rejected criticism that Sharon's new home is meant to provoke local Arabs." Police closed the stores around the nearby Damascus Gate and allowed only local residents to enter. Sharon's critics and supporters turned up in opposing demonstrations outside the Damascus Gate. On one side was Peace Now; its members said the Sharon house in the Arab quarter "is simply meant to provoke local Arab residents." Fifty meters away were the pro-Sharon demonstrators, most of them members of the Kakh movement.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 December on pages one and five in an article on the Sharon housewarming adds that Herut Central Committee member Moshe 'Amirav stood outside Sharon's building in protest, and that "a group of Palestinian women and youths marched towards Sharon's house from the Al-Aqsa Mosque a few hours before the Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony and were dispersed with tear gas after youths threw stones at Sharon's house, police said."]

### 'Routine' Searches Noted Outside Security Zone

*TA151809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] The Army spokesman announced that a terrorist vehicle was destroyed this afternoon in exchanges of fire between the Army and terrorists north of the security zone in south Lebanon in the eastern sector. An Israeli soldier was lightly wounded.

An Israel Army force this morning carried out routine searches for terrorist concentrations in the Maydun village area, outside the security zone in the eastern sector. During a search operation in the afternoon, the IDF force encountered a group of terrorists hiding in difficult terrain. In the ensuing exchanges of fire which included mortar fire from the terrorists, an Israeli soldier was lightly wounded. Israeli forces destroyed the terrorist vehicle. Explosions of terrorist ammunition stores were observed. The Israel Army patrol continued its search operation until it returned to the security zone.

### Northern Commander: War With Syria Not Imminent

*TA161326 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command says that there is no immediate danger of war between Israel and Syria. At the same time, it is imperative that a certain level of alert be maintained and no risks be taken. Major General Peled stressed that the Syrian Army has received very advanced equipment, but we must not infer from this that a war with Syria is inevitable.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Maj Gen Peled was addressing high school students in Tel Aviv.

### Egypt Not To Provide Financial Aid to PLO

*TA151842 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has informed a number of Palestinian leaders that Egypt is ready to provide assistance to Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The ministry stated that it will not provide any financial aid to PLO offices, institutions, and political and information departments. The ministry stressed that financial support is decided on by Arab summit resolutions and within the framework of the Arab League. Moreover, most of the Arab states that were required to provide this aid have refrained from doing so.

### Rabin 'Encouraged' on Chances for Arms Deal

*TA161010 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Dec 87 p 2*

[Report by Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpt] Washington—Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday emerged from a meeting with Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia encouraged about the prospect of Israel concluding a long-delayed major military sale to the U.S. Armed Forces, according to well-placed Israeli sources.

They recalled that Nunn, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, last year raised questions about the proposed Israeli export of mortar shells to the U.S. Army. The sale, involving the Soltam company, could mean hundreds of millions of dollars in exports.

It would represent the largest single Israeli military export deal ever, according to the sources. Israel has been competing with mortar manufacturers in Spain and France for the lucrative contract.

The deal was expected to be completed last year but Nunn, at the last minute, wrote to then Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, raising questions about the deal and the possibility of improprieties in connection with Israel's winning of the contract. Since then, the arrangement has been on hold pending the outcome of an internal Pentagon investigation.

In a related development, the U.S. Defence Department has agreed to finance 80 per cent of the cost of Israel's research land development of a new anti-tactical ballistic missile (ATBM). Israel would finance the remaining 20 per cent.

Israel originally asked for a 90-10 split in the cost of the new system, but is still holding out for that kind of arrangement. But informed sources yesterday said Israel would probably be prepared to accept the 80-20 deal if necessary.

In another potentially significant deal, the U.S. Air Force is said to be close to an agreement to purchase Israeli-made Popeye air-to-ground missiles. That sale also could represent a significant shot in the arm for the beleaguered Israeli defence industry.

Meeting with Israeli reporters yesterday, the defence minister said he had held a very good meeting at the Pentagon on Monday with Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci. He described Carlucci as "very friendly" and "open." [passage omitted]

## U.S. Arab Lobby Behind 'Penetration' Story

*TA160953 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew*
*16 Dec 87 p 2*

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] According to political sources in Jerusalem, the Arab lobby in the Unites States is behind the story about the Soviet "mole" who allegedly penetrated the ranks of Israel's Mossad.

According to a UPI report, CIA counterintelligence officials found out that the Soviets are in the possession of the data Jonathan Pollard handed over to Israel. This led the Americans to the conclusion that a KGB agent had infiltrated into the ranks of the Mossad and, among other things, got his hands on part of Pollard's treasure.

## 'Satisfaction' Noted on Poland's Clarification

*TA161055 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
*0900 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Israel has taken note of the clarification issued by the Polish Government with regard to the ceremonies commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of an incident which could have marred the ceremonies and the relations between Israel and Poland.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Polish Government announced that the Polish News Agency had issued an impolite and inappropriate report regarding intentions to link a statement about Israeli expansionist policy to the Warsaw Ghetto commemorative ceremonies.

## Iraq's Ramadan, Delegation Continue Visit

### Joint Committee Meets

*JN151322 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Amman, 15 Dec (INA)—The meetings of the third session of the Higher Iraqi-Jordanian Joint Committee began here today. The meetings are scheduled to last for 2 days. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, led the Iraqi side, and Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister, led the Jordanian side. The committee will discuss cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in various economic, technical, industrial, agricultural, banking, and transportation fields. It will also discuss ways to promote this cooperation in the interest of both fraternal countries.

The Iraqi side to these meetings includes Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transportation and communications; 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister; Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Usamah 'Abd al-Razzaq, Industry Ministry under secretary; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and a number of other officials.

The Jordanian side includes 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, deputy prime minister; Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of trade and industry; Raja'i al-Dajani, interior minister; Ahmad Dakhqan, minister of transportation; Hisham al-Khatib, minister of energy; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, minister of finance; Marwan al-Humud, minister of agriculture; Husayn al-Qasim, Central Bank Governor; Muhammad al-Saqqaf, Industry Ministry under secretary; Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

In speeches at the opening meeting of the committee, Taha Yasin Ramadan and Zayd al-Rifa'i expressed their satisfaction with the progress of cooperation between the two fraternal countries, the bases for which were laid down by President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn. They also stressed both countries' concern about bolstering joint action to serve cooperation in all fields and to achieve the aspirations of the Arab people in Iraq and Jordan.

### Husayn Receives Ramadan

*JN151914 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and RCC member, in Amman this afternoon. During this meeting, they reviewed aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. They also reviewed ways to promote this cooperation in light of what has been achieved within the framework of the Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Joint Committee. They did so to strengthen brotherly relations between the two countries in the interest of both fraternal peoples.

They also reviewed the current Arab situation and the efforts being made to implement the resolutions of the Amman summit—the summit of reconciliation and accord—to bolster joint Arab action in the face of the challenges and dangers threatening the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Muhammad, King Husayn's personal representative; Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. His Majesty King Husayn, the Iraqi guest, and the audience had a luncheon at the prime minister's house.

### Committee Signs Minutes

*JN151931 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Amman—The minutes of the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Joint Committee were signed at the Prime Ministry this evening. They were signed for the Jordanian Government by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and for the Iraqi Government by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member.

The minutes include an agreement on diversifying and expanding bilateral trade to reach $900 million in 1988. Under the agreement, both countries will also remove any obstacles hampering the flow of national commodities between them. The two sides agreed to encourage the exchange of trade delegations and to promote and expand trade fairs in both fraternal countries.

The higher committee acquainted itself with the progress of the work of the Jordanian-Iraqi company for industry and approved the company's new strategy based on establishing large projects with high economic returns. It also approved the company's work program for 1988, including the preparation of studies on the economic and technical feasibility of a number of projects.

## PLO's Al-Wazir, Dudin Confer in Amman 15 Dec

*JN151702 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1657 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met with Jordanian Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin in Amman today.

During this meeting, they reviewed developments in the occupied territories, as well as the martyrdom, injury, and arrest of hundreds of Palestinian citizens.

They also discussed a report prepared by a tripartite committee made up of representatives of the Jordanian Government, the PLO, and the General Secretariat of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of the Palestinian People's Steadfastness. The report deals with the agenda of the committee, which will hold a meeting in Amman tomorrow, Wednesday. The committee will discuss ways to support and reinforce the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in accordance with a program of urgent priorities proposed by the tripartite committee.

### Joint Committee To Meet

*JN161333 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*16 Dec 87 p 19*

[Text] Amman, INA—The 2-day meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee for the support of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland are scheduled to begin today. The Jordanian side to the meetings is headed by Marwan Dudin, minister of the occupied territories' affairs. The Palestinian side is led by Khalil al-Wazir, alias abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, who arrived in Amman on 14 December.

In its meetings, the committee will concentrate on reviewing developments in the occupied territory and the best ways to support and strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

### UN Representative Denounces Israeli Actions

*JN151443 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0500 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] New York—'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, has called on the UN Security Council to denounce Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and its efforts to consecrate this occupation. He also called for stopping Israel's repressive and aggressive actions represented by opening fire on Arab citizens.

The UN Security Council held a session last night on events in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. In his speech at the session, Salah said: In light of this volatile situation, we find it necessary to note that if the Security Council wants to preserve its credibility and prestige and the trust of peace-loving peoples, then it should consider the essence of the Palestinian question and understand its causes objectively. The real problem does not lie in the legitimate Arab resistance and Israel's unlawful retaliation, but in Israel's occupation of Arab territory and its desire to annex this territory after deporting its owners.

Salah also noted that Israeli leaders attribute the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, led by the civilian insurgence, to external causes and factors. The Israeli representative announced this before the Security Council. In other words, these events are the result of external incitement.

Salah also stated that the Palestinian people, who have been suffering from the yoke of occupation for a long time, feel frustrated and humiliated by Israel's continued policy of annexing occupied Arab territories and violating the basic rights of the Palestinian individual. Consequently, a volatile situation has erupted among the Palestinians, expressing their feelings of frustration and despair. It was only natural for these feelings to turn into resistance to the occupation and its policy, regardless of the direct cause.

### Results of Unemployment Survey Published

*JN151353 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English*
*15 Dec 87 p 1, 4*

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—A research on unemployment in Jordan has found that most of the unemployed were among the well-educated, the young, the poor and female citizens. The unemployment rate was estimated to increase from 6.9 percent in 1986 to 10 percent in 1990, according to the results of the research released on Monday, but officials and observers said many loopholes in the research resulted in incorrect unemployment figures and an underestimation of the magnitude of the problem.

The research, a summary of which was read out by Dr. Muhammad Shahatit of the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Economics Research Department at a seminar at the RSS, said that the unemployment problem "has become one of the main problems facing Jordan" and that the Governorate of Al-Zarqa' suffered the highest unemployment level, followed by the Amman area.

The findings were based on a sample survey of 2,064 unemployed Jordanians who registered at the Civil Service Commission and Ministry of Labour employment offices in the Kingdom. The 2,064 constituted 30 percent of applicants during July and August 1986, the period during which the survey was conducted.

The sex ratio of the unemployed was nearly 2:3 which meant that for every 100 unemployed females, there are 230 unemployed males. It was also observed that the percentage of unemployed males was well above average in Ma'an and Al- Mafraq Governorates, about 99 percent and 76 percent respectively. The study cited "social elements such as the negative attitude towards female employment" to be responsible for the imbalance.

The research, partly financed by the West German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), said more than two-thirds of the unemployed were below the age of 30 and that the burden of this problem was "greater on females." It said that 93 percent of unemployed females were under the age of 30 while this ratio did not exceed 68 percent for males.

Dr. Matthes Buhbe, the FES representative in Jordan, said the real unemployment rate in Jordan was probably higher than the official figure of seven to eight percent and that predictions for 1990 were based on certain considerations and elements that may not materialise as projected.

Dr. Buhbe, who also contributed to the research project, told the JORDAN TIMES that the total unemployment figures were offered by the Ministry of Labour and included only those who registered themselves at the Civil Service Commission and Labour Ministry employment offices. The employment rate of seven to eight percent did not cover those who had not registered. Officials from the RSS and the Department of Statistics say that unregistered job- seekers are estimated at 30 percent of the total unemployed in the country.

Dr. Buhbe said that projections of unemployment figures for 1990 were based on the incorrect assumption that the present rate was seven to eight percent and assuming economic activities within the five-year 1986-1990 national development plan which is expected to create new jobs.

"These projections (10 percentage unemployment in 1990) are based on the assumption that the (present) rate of seven to eight percent is true," Dr. Buhbe said. "This may be wrong."

World Bank figures for 1986 said that if the present economic trends in the Kingdom continued, unemployment was expected to reach 30 percent by 1990. The World Bank based its estimates on the growing unemployment caused by the surpluses in the labour supply resulting from the influx of a large number of Jordanian graduates from local and foreign universities and colleges.

According to the study, 55 percent of the total unemployed were married "which causes serious problems for married persons since they usually have to work to make a living for themselves and other dependents."

It noted that the unemployment problem was "more severe" among community college and university graduates, accounting for 40 percent of total unemployed. However, based on 1986 figures published by the Civil Service Commission, this percentage was 49.

According to the study, two out of three unemployed have less than five years of work experience. "It has also been noticed that high educational levels among the unemployed are associated with little work experience which calls for training programmes."

About 58 percent of the unemployed have searched for jobs for six months at the most, while one out of five has been unemployed for one year or more. In general, the duration of unemployment is longer for females than for males, the study noted.

It pointed out that "major structural changes occurred among the unemployed over the period between 1982 and 1986. That means that the percentage of the unemployed professionals out of the total unemployed has increased from eight percent to 19.1 percent in 1986."

"There are more poor unemployed than rich ones," the study said, implying that most unemployed come from families of less financial resources. It also observed that the financial state of the unemployed "was affected by the area to which they belong." The study did not offer any figures to back this conclusion.

The study said there was a consensus among unemployed to accept jobs lower than their qualifications and to accept jobs of lower wages than their last ones.

The study cited the causes of unemployment as including internal factors such as the slowdown in economic activity, the significant growth in college and university graduates of unrequired specialisations, behavioural unemployment, the continuous influx of foreign workers, the rigidity of wages and the lack of a suitable information system about job vacancies and job seekers.

It said the major external factors included the decline in demand in the Gulf states for Jordanian manpower, the return of a number of Jordanian exptriates and the decreasing growth rate of remittances from Jordanians working abroad. The research recommended reactivating the economy, enhancing the demand for Jordanian labour force in the Gulf states, adopting labour intensive techniques, adopting an export-oriented strategy, implementing a sound national wages and incentives policy and the establishment of a national information system.

## AL-RA'Y Praises 'Continuous Uprising'

*JN151130 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*15 Dec 87 pp 1, 22*

[Editorial: "A Continuous Uprising"]

[Text] It is difficult for us to speak about the uprising of the people of occupied Palestine in terms of days and hours. Ever since the Zionist occupation of this Palestinian Arab territory, the kinfolk there have been setting an example of steadfastness and courage in resisting and confronting the occupation despite the mounting organized Zionist terrorism against this steadfastness and courage. Israeli racism's skillful use of economic, cultural, and psychological oppression has not prevented our kinfolk from continuing their resistance and becoming a nightmare for the occupier, continuously depriving him of security and peace of mind.

The kinfolk come out in their towns, villages, and camps shouting slogans for the downfall of occupation, hurling stones, or simply remaining cynically, yet painfully, silent. The enemies lose their senses and open up their machineguns against those chests which are filled with faith and charged with national and pan-Arab pride and

loyalty to the land, the people, and the nation. Yet those concerned about human rights and those bragging about world peace and stability, values, and principles stand by while the massacre continues at the hands of the occupation army, the racist settlers, and the Israeli "state" with all its organs and arrogance.

None of those concerned about human rights, world peace and security, values, and principles has uttered a single word against Israeli terrorism. Nobody condemns the murder of innocent civilians and the butchering of children, old people, and women. Nobody dares to say anything to the occupier about his terrorism, racism, and savagery against the kinfolk who are resisting the aggressors.

But it seems there is some good in every evil. This particular evil confirms the great truth that the partnership between the Zionist entity and the forces supporting it in the hostility against Arabs and the attempts to humiliate and annihilate them is a strong one. It began with aggression and continued under its cover. This partnership must be confronted by a brave pan-Arab stand that dots the i's and crosses the t's; a stand that makes no distinction between enemies, except when one is able to conceal its hatred and the other shows it openly.

The uprising of the kinfolk in occupied Palestine is a continuous one. The racist and savage forces and all forces hostile to our nation and the Arabism of its land in Palestine and elsewhere will not be able to suppress this uprising or prevent it from achieving its precious aims, which are restoring justice, rights, and peace in Palestine, the land of justice, right, and peace.

## AL-DUSTUR on Husayn's 'Exceptional Efforts'

*JN151548 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*15 Dec 87 pp 1, 27*

[Editorial: "Building on Suitable Ground"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's tour of the Arabian Gulf states is a significant and important part of the series of visits paid by his majesty the king to a number of neighboring Arab states following the conclusion of the summit of reconciliation and accord. The results and accompanying circumstances have laid the foundation for a new Arab beginning.

The Arab circumstances are currently suitable for implementing the extraordinary summit resolutions and consecrating the Amman summit spirit, which is still strongly felt throughout the whole Arab entity. In light of this fact, His Majesty King Husayn, the summit chairman, has continued his sincere and honest efforts to consolidate an Arab reality aligned with the positive and warm feelings currently characterizing inter-Arab relations.

Within this context lies his majesty the king's visit to Damascus and his meeting with his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. This visit was the first part of the king's extensive Arab tour. His majesty the king's visits to Baghdad, Cairo, and Riyadh, which followed, and his meetings with his brothers the Arab leaders also lie within this context. These visits preceded his latest tour of the capitals of the fraternal Arabian Gulf states.

There is no doubt that these efforts by His Majesty King Husayn can be considered to be a qualitative continuation of his majesty's tireless and persistent efforts during the past few months to approximate the views of fraternal states and unify the Arab leaders' stands on the most important fateful issues. These issues eventually resulted in convening an extraordinary Arab summit under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Husayn.

Hence, the persistent and exceptional efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn since the conclusion of the extraordinary summit actually reflect Jordan's sincere intentions and its eagerness to build the Arab stand on practical, material bases derived from the spirit of the summit and its positive results.

Jordan also wants to turn all these good Arab intentions into a tangible reality capable of benefiting from the positive aspects created by this summit. Jordan wants to do this at a time when the conspiracies being hatched against the Arabs are gaining momentum and also when the challenges facing them are increasing.

**Assassination Attempt on Army Commander Foiled**
*NC161211 Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Beirut, Dec 16 (MENA)—The command of the Lebanese Army foiled ten days ago an attempt on the life of Commander of the Lebanese Army Michel 'Awn, "AL-SAFIR" newspaper reported today quoting reliable security forces.

The paper said the security body entrusted with the protection of 'Awn discovered the assassination plan and is currently investigating the matter with a number of detainees, some of them military men. The security sources declined to unveil the details of the attempt and accused a party presented on the Lebanese territory of being behind the assassination plot. The sources said some of the detainees gave information about the plot but "AL-SAFIR" did not rpt not disclose the identity of this party.

## Israeli Advance Reported in Western Al-Biqa'

### Planes Fly Over Sidon
*NC151516 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Israeli enemy aircraft flew over Sidon at 1400 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

### Artillery, Helicopter Fire
*NC151546 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1525 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] According to reports from the western Al-Biqa', Israeli forces have been combing the area between Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah with heavy artillery and helicopters since 1500 today. There are no accurate reports on casualties or losses.

### Force Advances; Clashes Occur
*NC151724 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1708 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] According to the latest reports from western Al-Biqa', the situation is growing more tense and the clashes between fundamentalist gunmen and the Israeli Army are becoming more violent. The Israeli Army has brought in a force to the scene of the clashes and landed troops by helicopter. Foreign news agencies report that Israeli Army units backed by tanks and helicopters entered western Al-Biqa' and advanced 2 km toward Lebanese villages under Syrian occupation supported by artillery cover.

The Syrian occupation forces in the area have been placed on maximum alert but have as yet not participated in the ongoing battles between the Israelis and pro-Syrian gunmen. The violent clashes between the forces of the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army on the one hand and the fundamentalists and leftist organizations on the other are concentrated in the Maydun and Dallafah areas and are interspersed by attacks from both sides. Another report from southern Lebanon says that the Israeli forces have closed all crossing points and roads to the border zone.

### Army Position Under Fire
*NC151836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', the Israeli occupation forces have been carrying out a wide-scale raking operation with artillery and helicopters in the area extending from Maydun and Hula to 'Ayn al-Tinah in western al-Biqa'. No casualties have yet been reported.

It has also been stated that a Lebanese Army position in the 'Ayn al-Tinah area came under shellfire, and that a military vehicle was burned inside the position as a result of the shelling. No one was hurt, however.

It should be recalled that a resistance group clashed this morning with an Israeli force which had tried to cross the line betwen the liberated and occupied areas south of Hasbayya. The resistance fighters wounded two occupation soldiers, who were removed to the Marj 'Uyun area.

In an attempt to distort the facts and cover up its aggressions, Israel, in a report broadcast by its radio this evening, denied carrying out any unusual movements in the western Al-Biqa' area.

### Hizballah Members Arrested
*NC151742 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1723 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] The Israeli Army preempted an operation today that was being prepared by Hizballah in Maydun in western Al-Biqa' against the Israeli positions in the area. The Israeli Army arrested 20 Hizballah members.

The details of the operation are as follows: An Israeli force consisting of 9 Merkava tanks and 12 personnel carriers entered Maydun under air cover while helicopters carried out combing operations and mock raids. The Israeli force clashed with the Hizballah group and arrested some of its members. The Israelis then withdrew at 1630 through the Maydun-Taw'amat Niha-Kafr Hunah road.

### 4 Reported Wounded
*NC151954 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Mashgharah is still coming under intermittent shelling, but the Israeli forces and Lahd militias have withdrawn from the area after doing battle with Amal

and Hizballah fighters this afternoon. According to initial reports, two soldiers from the Lebanese Army's 1st Brigade and two fundamentalists were wounded in the fighting.

According to a security force, Israeli and Lahd troops advanced under artillery cover for 2 km outside the security strip and engaged the Shi'ite fundamentalists in battle for 4 hours near Birkat Jabbur. Security sources say that Amal and Hizballah responded to the advancing force with machineguns and anti-tank weapons as Israeli helicopters flew overhead and opened machinegun fire. The Israelis are said to have arrested several Hizballah members.

The Lebanese Army's 1st Brigade and the Syrian Army in Mashgharah both initiated a state of alert in their ranks.

A Lebanese military source said that two soldiers from the 1st Brigade were wounded when an Israeli helicopter gunship fired an air-to-surface missile on a Lebanese Army position south of 'Ayn al-Tinah, setting an armored vehicle ablaze.

Hizballah vehicles roamed Mashgharah at night,spreading the word that the attacking Israeli and Lahd forces had suffered 10 casualties.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement said that one of its groups, which had been preparing for an operation within the security strip, has confronted and repulsed the attacking force.

### Force Build-Up Continues

*NC160742 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] The Israeli enemy forces failed to attain their objective through their military aggression against western Al-Biqa' yesterday. The Israeli failure was due to the tough resistance put up by the inhabitants and resistance fighters, who checked the enemy aggression and inflicted losses of life and equipment on them. A state of alert continues to reign in the areas of 'Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, Qilyah, and Mashgharah.

Meanwhile, according to reports received from the occupied border strip this morning, the Israeli forces' build-up is continuing in western Al-Biqa'.

### Military Vehicle Damaged

*NC161043 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] An explosive device went off as a military vehicle belonging to agent Lahd's militiamen was passing on the Bayt Yahun-Bra'shit road this morning. The blast left the vehicle out of commission and its passengers wounded.

A state of extreme tension and alert prevails in western Al-Biqa' following the fierce fighting that raged between resistance fighters on the one hand and the occupation forces and their agents on the other. Antiaircraft guns have been sighted on the Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah ridges, while heavy Israeli concentrations, including Merkava tanks, have been seen on the opposite side, specifically on Tallal al-Ahmadiyah and Burghuz. Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters and reconnaissance aircraft have been flying over the area since the early hours of the morning.

In another development, the Hizballah official in western Al-Biqa' affirmed today that 14 Israelis and Lahd agents were killed in yesterday's battle. He added that the enemy tanks that were set on fire yesterday are still on the battlefield.

### Maronite Patriarchate Confirms Sfayr-Lahd Talks

*NC151312 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] The Maronite Patriarchate Secretariate has announced that Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr received Major General Antoine Lahd on Sunday, 6 December. As a Maronite Lebanese citizen, Lahd visited the patriarch to congratulate him on his election to the patriarchate.

The statement says that Bkirki's doors are open to all visitors, particularly the Lebanese and the Maronites, regardless of their affiliations. The Maronite Secretariate wishes that the mass media would verify the facts before reporting the news, out of an eagerness to maintain credibility. The statement points out that certain media commented on the news in a provocative manner after it had been reported by the AL-NAHAR newspaper.

### Lahd Responds to Birri Comment on Sfayr Visit

*NC151217 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has responded to a question concerning the statement made by Minister Nabih Birri yesterday in which he expressed his personal shock and the shock of all southerners, Christians before Muslims, at the news that Maj Gen Lahd had visited the Maronite patriarchate. The report had been carried by certain news media. Birri had also urged Patriarch Sfayr to clarify his position on this visit.

Lahd said that Mr Nabih Birri has become accustomed to interfering in what does not concern him. He added: Concerning the issue of whether I have or have not met with His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, it is a matter that does not concern him, particularly as it is not the Maronite patriachate's custom to report to the likes of Birri and his masters. The Christians residing in the areas where the SLA is present live together with other sects in liberty and dignity. Let Mr

Birri rest assured that Lebanese territory is being preserved and that the Lebanese flag continues to flutter above every single inch of Lebanon's land.

On this occasion, I would like to ask Mr Birri about the fate of the Christian people and clergy in the area over which he alleged controls. How many of them are left? And how many Christian clergy have been kidnapped or killed? I leave it to the honorable Shi'ite community to put an end to Mr Birri's damaging acts and to his continued interference in what does not concern him. Sufficient damage has been done to the good sons of this community as a result of his claims and heroic pretensions.

### UN's Goulding Views Talks With Officials

*NC151801 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, met today with President al-Jumayyil, Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni, acting Prime Minister al-Huss, and Minister Birri.

In a statement at the Presidential Palace, Goulding said that the talks had focused on UNIFIL in the south and the means of achieving national accord in Lebanon. He stressed that the UN Security Council will extend UNIFIL's mandate and denied that his talks dealt with the issue of Israel seizing parts of Lebanese territory in the south. He stated that UNIFIL has not reported any Israeli troop reinforcement on the Lebanese borders. He described developments in the south and the events taking place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as worrisome and emphasized the need for effective negotiations to stop the conflagration.

He attempted to skirt the issue of the U.S. share in the UN budget for the new year, but did say that he hoped the sum would total approximately $18 million.

In remarks at the Foreign Ministry, Goulding said that the superpower summit did not discuss the Middle East issue in depth, despite what certain press reports had stated. He affirmed that the situation in the Middle East is very distressful and added: We see tension in the south and formidable tension in the West Bank. These developments, he said, emphasize the need for diplomatic moves and negotiations to resolve this chronic conflict. He noted that Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is seeking this goal. He did not disclose whether he is going to the south and Israel tomorrow.

### Discussion With Birri

*NC152045 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Following his call on Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, this evening, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding said: We strongly condemn any Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and we are against the Israeli presence on Lebanese territory.

Goulding said that the Lebanese leaders are united in their support for an international conference and they believe that Lebanon must participate in it.

Minister Birri explained that today's new Israeli aggression took up part of the discussion time during his meeting with Goulding. He noted that their talks dealt with the possibility of partial withdrawals from the area. We agreed that what is needed is total, unconditional withdrawal, he said.

### Al-Jumayyil's Plan For Unity Government Noted

*NC160730 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR today cites sources, which it describes as reliable, as saying that President Amin al-Jumayyil sought to promote a new plan during his visit to Paris. He has requested former President Sulayman Franjiyah to inform Damascus of the contents of the plan so that the views of senior Syrian officials may be ascertained.

According to AL-SAFIR, the sources have reported that the plan includes the following points.

First, it expresses an absolute willingness to deploy the Army in East Beirut.

Second, it proposes that 8 hours after the Army's deployment, a decree would be issued forming a national unity government. Agreement would be reached in advance over who would head the government and who its members would be.

Third, it states that should it prove impossible to form a government, President al-Jumayyil would not object to the election of former President Franjiyah as an interim president for a transitional 2-year period, during which he would undertake to attain national reconciliation.

This would be done on the basis of Al-Jumayyil's willingness to develop the political principles included in the plan, which he proposed on 14 June 1987, to bring them sufficiently close to the Tripartite Agreement, according to AL-SAFIR.

### Syrian Killed in Bturram; Residents Harassed

*NC161224 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] According to reports from Al-Kurah today, a Syrian occupation army soldier has been killed in Bturram. Bturram's citizens are being subjected to humiliation, kidnapping, detention, and evacuation at the hands of the Syrians.

### Secret 'Resistance' Formed in Beirut, Sidon

*NC160945 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14-20 Dec 87 p 16*

[Text] A source close to the "Tripoli resistance" in the capital of the north has said that the activities of the resistance will expand to include the western sector of Beirut and Sidon, where a secret campaign is expected to begin soon in coordination with Syrian intelligence.

The source points out that secret groups, operating under the name "Beirut resistance" in West Beirut and "Sidon resistance" in Sidon, are getting ready to play a role similar to that played by the "Tripoli resistance" in the battles which resulted in the establishment of Syrian control over the capital of the north. It is known that the "Tripoli resistance" managed, in less than a year, to destroy the political and military structure of the "Islamic Unification Movement" in Tripoli during 1985.

The source believes that the mission of the new groups in West Beirut and Sidon will be to "pursue" the leaders of "Hizballah" and "the Islamic group", now that it is established that both have links with the "Muslim brothers" in Syria.

Syrian intelligence has been careful to keep its connection with the new groups secret so as not to arouse Iran's anger and so as to reap the "desired harvest" at the proper time, after these groups have realized their "objectives."

The source doubts whether the resistance in Beirut and Sidon will succeed in achieving what the Tripoli resistance achieved in "record time," in view of the difference both in the "scene of action" and in the political and sectarian atmosphere. This makes the activities being prepared difficult and dangerous, the source adds.

### Hizballah Officials Abducted in Beirut Suburb

*NC151235 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Security reports have revealed that secret acts of abduction have been taking place in some areas of the [Beirut southern] suburb, particularly in Harat Hurayk and Hayy al-Karamah. According to the same reports, a number of Hizballah officials vanished without a trace 3 days ago. Of these, Yusuf Ballut, Habib 'Ammar, and others from the Yahfufi family have been identified.

According to some sources, these abductions are probably the result of a conflict between the Syrian and Iranian intelligence services.

### Lebanese Forces, Amal Exchange Abducted Persons

*NC151734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] An exchange of kidnapped persons took place between the Amal Movement and the Lebanese Forces at 1600 today. The Amal Movement released Marcel 'Assaf, while the Lebanese Forces released Muhammad Mansur and Hasan 'Atiyyah.

## 'New Opportunity' Exists 'To Besiege Israel'

*JN142217 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Will the international Middle East peace conference convene or not? This question preoccupies the political and media quarters that are interested in the Middle East in the wake of the U.S.-Soviet summit which convened in Washington. This summit discussed, among others things, the issue of the Middle East and the idea of holding an international conference to achieve a peaceful solution in the region.

The U.S. and Soviet statements on the summit have admitted to differences between the two on regional issues, including the Middle East problem. However, logical deductions [words indistinct] new agreements on specific systems of weapons, but also to tackle the complicated regional issues which for many years have been among the factors escalating tension and exacerbating international relations.

The Middle East problem is among the most complicated and inveterate of regional issues. It is also liable to explode at any movement. The two parties to the Washington summit are closely linked to this problem and have interests in the region which they wish to safeguard. Since the region is adjacent to the Soviet Union, and is affected by and effects the Soviet Union's national security, successive U.S. Administrations have proclaimed the Gulf region as an arena that is somewhat linked to U.S. national security.

It is natural for the two sides who want to spread relaxation in international relations to all parts of the world to devote their attention to the Middle East question. Many signs indicate that the idea of an international conference is the second common denominator between the two sides. The first common denominator is the desire to calm the situation in the region and to exert efforts to settle the principal crisis and the problems it entails. In spite of the fact that the two sides differ on an international conference and its prerogatives, the idea of a conference will be the major topic of their future activities.

The Israeli rulers realize that they will face inescapable commitment if a relaxation in international relations occurs. That's why they resist the idea of an international conference and international relaxation. They also seek to shackle the U.S. Administration to the Middle East problem in order to prevent it from moving freely. They work to wrest new concessions from Washington similar to the commitments with which Henry Kissinger has shackled U.S. policy in the Middle East. The Israeli rulers have obtained the first of these concessions—the memorandum of understanding which commits the United States to continue providing Israel with military assistance and sophisticated weapons systems.

The logic of the Israeli rulers is one which says that any conference on the Middle East and any agreement between one of the parties at the Washington summit and the parties concerned with the region's problem will necessarily ask Israel to return the land and rights of others which it has usurped. That's why the real Israeli stand is hostile to any international conference on the Middle East and to any fair international settlement of the Middle East crisis.

From this premise, the Arabs now have a new opportunity to besiege Israel and to reveal how hostile it is to international relaxation, to peace in the Middle East, and to the principles of the UN Charter. The more the Arabs remain committed to the UN Charter, its principles, and resolutions, the more isolated Israel will become and the more Arabs will influence international efforts.

## AL-BA'TH 'Refutes' Egypt's Claims on Accords

*JN151331 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] In a comment today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH refutes the Egyptian regime's claims that the Camp David accords are not aimed against the Palestinian question and do not violate the Collective Arab Defense Pact. It says: How does this regime interpret Article 6 of these accords, which necessitated that Egypt should stand by Israel's side and prevented Egypt from fulfilling its Arab commitments, particularly on the level of joint defense?

The paper stresses that Article 6 completely excluded Egypt from the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, how can the Egyptian regime claim that the Camp David accords do not violate the Collective Arab Defense Pact?

The paper adds: If this regime announces its concern for the Palestinian question, then how can we understand its statements that the abrogation of the Camp David accords would mean a declaration of war? Does this regime fear war? Most importantly, does it fear it would be left alone on the confrontation line?

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Is the issue one of evasion or cowardice? Egypt, or any other fraternal country, will not be alone in the fateful battle—the battle of all Arabs in defense of an honorable existence that must survive and continue.

## Egypt 'Afraid' To Cancel Camp David Accords

*JN151627 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Station commentary]

[Text] It might be very useful to recall the articles of the Camp David accords whenever the Egyptian regime declares there is no contradiction between its commitment to the Collective Arab Defense Pact and the Camp David accords. For instance, Article 6 states in its second

paragraph that the two parties will fulfill their obligations under this treaty independently of any instrument external to this treaty. The fourth paragraph of the same article states that the two parties will not enter into any obligation in conflict with this treaty.

These two paragraphs mean that the Egyptian regime must give priority to its obligations toward Israel over any Arab obligations, be it the Collective Arab Defense Pact or the Arab League Charter, which stipulates that no Arab state should unilaterally make peace with the Zionist enemy.

Hence, by denying the presence of any contradiction between the Camp David accords and its obligations to the Collective Arab Defense Pact, the Egyptian regime not only ignores facts but also practices premeditated deception to justify its adherence to the Camp David accords and suggests it is still capable of making a national and pan-Arab decision independent of Israeli and U.S. hegemony.

It thus ignores the undeniable fact that it has left the arena of confrontation with the Zionist enemy and that it is practicing an Israeli and U.S. Middle East policy aimed at dragging the Arabs into the quagmire of the accords and forcing them to surrender and succumb to our nation's enemy under the pretext that it is futile to confront this enemy—an enemy that introduced terrorism into the Middle East at the outset of this century through the Irgun and Stern gangs and has practiced state terrorism since the establishment of its entity in Palestine by displacing and annihilating the Palestinian Arab people. This enemy undertook a series of expansionist moves as part of its plan to fulfill its Zionist Torah dream to establish Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The Zionist enemy, whose existence is based on aggression, expansion, and terrorism, has not concealed its ambitions against Arab territory and its desire for hegemony over the Arabs. This enemy not only refuses to implement the UN resolutions calling for the restoration of all the occupied territories and for guarantees of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, but also rejects, obstructs, and defies every serious international effort to establish peace in the region in accordance with UN resolutions. This enemy uses war, killing, and annihilation and daily threatens Arab existence and destiny. It has forced the Egyptian regime to disarm the Sinai and has occupied Tabah as it is occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as parts of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

The Egyptian regime is afraid of canceling the Camp David treaty with this Zionist enemy for fear that this will renew the state of war. Here we would like to state that this Zionist enemy has not stopped its war or aggression against the Arabs so that hands may be extended to it as the Egyptian regime has done. Damascus' gates will not be opened for anyone who extends his hand to the Arab nation's enemy because Damascus does not bargain over a pan-Arab stand or a pan-Arab cause. It extends its hand to every Arab who abides by defense and who works for the liberation of territory and the restoration of rights.

## Afghanistan

### Najibullah Receives Soviet Trade Union Official

*LD152036 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah today received Gennadiy Ivanovich Yanayev, the secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union, who is visiting our country at the head of a delegation. They discussed cooperation between the trade unions of the two countries. Star Pordeli, president of the Central Council of the Trade Unions, was also present.

### Local Tribesmen Join Mujahidin in Khowst Siege

*BK151604 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 15 (AFP)—Once-neutral tribesmen in eastern Afghanistan have joined forces with the mujahidin in their siege of the garrison town of Khowst, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

They said some 10,000 people had fled to Pakistan in the past few weeks as Soviet and Afghan troops have been sent to Gardez in a bid to re-open mountain routes to Khowst, encirled by thousands of mujahidin guerrillas.

Recent clashes in the area between the guerrillas and Soviet-Afghan forces have left some 500 dead, diplomatic sources in Kabul said, pointing to an influx of casualties from Paktia and Qandahar Provinces.

At a Loya Jirgha, a traditional tribal gathering held in Kabul on November 30, Afghan President Najibullah set a 20-day deadline for the region's main Zadran tribe to lift the siege.

Several Zadran elders who recently met Dr. Najibullah refused offers of money to help break the siege, the diplomats here said.

Resistance sources said Kabul's offer to release some 250 jailed guerrillas in exchange for a ceasefire has also been rejected by the main mujahidin commander, Jalaluddin Haqqani.

The diplomats said the defection of the tribesmen, who had stayed out of the conflict in the past, had further "complicated ... the situation" for Kabul and the Soviet forces in the region.

Kabul's concern at the turn of events could be seen in the dispatch of several large convoys to the area, they said, adding that some 400 vehicles had set out last week after initial efforts to break through had failed.

A major convoy which was first reported on December 1 was still halted near Gardez last week, the diplomats said.

Soviet and Afghan troops had been unable to advance along the 50 kilometre (30 mile) twisting mountain road to Khowst. The area has been under rebel control since the Soviet invasion in 1979.

Heavy fighting was reported last week near Eatu Kandu [place-name as received], a narrow gorge near Gardez, they said.

The diplomats confirmed resistance reports that the mujahidin had shot down at least four helicopters in the past few days of fighting in the area.

A Soviet MI-8 helicopter transporting 10 wounded Soviet soldiers was brought down near a stalled convoy, killing four of the wounded.

SU-25's, one of the Soviet Union's most modern aircraft, have resumed operations in the Paktia region after a week's halt, the diplomats said.

The diplomats said they feared Soviet forces would retaliate against Pakistan after the expiry of Dr. Najibullah's ultimatum on December 19, renewing attacks on civilian and military targets on a larger scale than those earlier this year.

There could also be an upsurge in terrorist attacks on Pakistani attacks, they added. [sentence as received]

### Mujahidin Launch Attacks in Nangarhar Province

*BK160834 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin carried out attacks in Sorkh Rud area of Nangarhar Province on the 7th of this month and attacked five Soviet-Kabul security posts. Several arms and ammunition were also captured by the mujahidin. Another report says the Soviet-Kabul aircraft have intensified their bombing operations in the rural locality of (Paich) area in Kunar Valley. A large number of women and children were killed in the bombings in the area last week.

## Bangladesh

### 'Victory Day' Preparations, Messages Noted

#### Rallies Allowed 16 Dec

*BK151606 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] All kinds of meetings and rallies can be held on the occasion of the Victory Day tomorrow [16 December]. An official handout says no processions and demonstrations will, however, be allowed. All other restrictions imposed under emergency laws will remain in force.

Meanwhile, the curfew will be reimposed at 0000 tonight and will continue till 0400 tomorrow morning in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj. The industrial areas of Demra, Adamji, Fotullah, and (Fuldar Hat) will remain outside the purview of curfew.

### Ershad Urges Peace

*BK151631 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] The Victory Day is tomorrow. On this day in 1971 the nation achieved victory in the war of independence at the cost of millions of lives leading to the emergence of an independent and sovereign Bangladesh.

In a message on the occasion, President Ershad has called upon the people to make all out efforts for the establishment of a democratic and exploitation-free social system based on the ideals of the war of independence. The president said the victory during the war of independence was not a gift from anybody. The nation had to pay a heavy price for it. The historic victory was achieved by a united armed struggle and as a result of immense sacrifices of the people. The ideals and sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of freedom fighters will always be a source of inspiration for posterity. The main objectives of this war of independence were to consolidate the national independence and sovereignty, bring about a democratic social system, and economic emancipation of the majority of people.

The president spoke of his efforts to realize these great objectives during the last 6 years. As a result of combined efforts, the nation has achieved remarkable progress in different fields of national life. The people-oriented revolutionary (?plans) have added a new dimension to our development efforts. The nation has got a new sense of direction and the country's image has gone up in the community of nations. The people at all levels were responsible for this success, which was the result of their patriotism and dedication.

President Ershad stresscd the need for peace and stability as necessary preconditions for economic progress and consolidation of independence and sovereignty. Lawlessness and indiscipline will not only create sufferings for the people, but also hinder national development and threaten national independence and sovereignty. Hence, it is the sacred duty of every patriotic citizen to rise against acts of lawlessness and indiscipline unitedly to create a rock-like resistance for protecting the country's independence and sovereignty.

President Ershad, in this context, spoke of his efforts for holding new parliamentary elections to give democracy a firm institutional footing in the country. He said he believed there is no alternative to democracy for the promotion of peace, stability, and progress in our social, economic, and state life. He called upon the people, irrespective of their party affiliations, to contribute their might toward giving a permanent institutional shape to democracy. Tomorrow is a public holiday and the national flag will fly on all public and private buildings. [passage omitted]

### Leaders Issue Messages

*BK160740 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] The Jatiya Juba Sanghati yesterday organized a discussion meeting in Dhaka to mark the Victory Day [on 16 December]. Among others, State Minister for Youth Mustafa Jamal Haider and State Minister for Works Sheikh Shahidul Islam spoke on the occasion. Jatiya Party Secretary General and Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain, who was the chief guest on the occasion, called upon all to carry forward the development process initiated by the present government to materialize the dreams and ideals of the martyrs of the war of independence. He said the country has become independent but the socioeconomic victory is yet to be achieved. He called upon the youth to work with dedication to reap the fruits of independence to every doorstep of the people.

The Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, has made a renewed call to the people irrespective of their party affiliation to forge solid unity imbued with the spirit of the liberation war to [word indistinct] of the victory of the current democratic movement. She called for resisting unitedly unconstitutional means or conspiracy to foil the struggle aimed at establishing the democratic process in the country.

Tht BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chairman, Begum Khaleda Zia, in a message has recalled the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and (?heroes) of the liberation war. She said their ideals of nationalism, democracy and economic emancipation will continue to inspire the nation.

The JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] chief, Shahjahan Siraj, has called for establishing an exploitation-free economic order and restore democratic rights in keeping with the spirit of liberation war. Taking part in a discussion meeting in the party office, he said the only way to resolve the political impasse is to hold free and fair election under a neutral caretaker government.

BAKSAL [Bangladesh Awami Krishak Sramik Awami League] chairman, Mahiuddin Ahmed, has said the only way to resolve political problems is to hold elections under a caretaker government. He also called for the release of political leaders who are under detention.

Bangladesh National Awami Party-Bhasani chief, A.K.M. Fazlul Haq, has asked the government to announce the poll date so as to ensure holding elections within 90 days. He also called for a spirit of accommodation both on the part of the government and the opposition for holding peaceful and impartial elections.

The Freedom Party has said the people are much ready to [words indistinct] at the hand of terrorists and subversive elements. In a statement, it said the people would not forgive those who are trying to betray the nation and disregarding the sacrifices of the martyrs.

The leaders of the four parties of the 23-party alliance yesterday called for creating an atmosphere for free and fair election. They said the need of the hour is to hold such an election with the people's participation. The president of the Bangladesh Gana Azadi League, S.M. Nurul Alam, and general secretary, Ali Reza, have called for elections under an interim caretaker government. They also called for release of political workers. Muslim League chief Sabruzzam Khan in a statement called on political parties to formulate an acceptable formula for resolving the political problem. In a statement in Dhaka, he said the sooner it was done the better for the country.

## India

### Gandhi Returns From Burma, Comments to Media

*BK161258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] The prime minister has said the center has no intention of dismissing any state government. He criticized the opposition chief ministers for misinterpreting his statement in Parliament and reiterated that the center will not hesitate to dismiss any state government if found to be antinational.

Speaking to newsmen at Delhi Airport on his return from Burma this evening, Mr Gandhi said his government has never discriminated between the Congress-I and opposition-ruled states. Regarding the terms of the ninth finance commission, Mr Gandhi said he does not find anything wrong. He, however, added that there should be proper utilization of funds and there should be no wastage. He said without financial discipline there can be no development.

About his meetings with the district magistrates, the prime minister said it is a very honest exercise to improve administration without encroaching upon the jurisdiction of any state government. He said district magistrates and deputy commissioners are the key persons to run the administration. Interaction with them will give the best ideas to smooth the administrative procedure.

Mr Gandhi described his visit to Burma as very successful. He said his talks with the Burmese leaders covered many subjects. He expressed the hope that relations between the two countries, which are low key now, will get a boost.

### Normal Life at 'Standstill' in Darjeeling

*BK151254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] In West Bengal, normal life has come to a standstill in Darjeeling town and some other areas of Darjeeling District following a 48-hour bundh [strike] since this morning. All shops and business establishments, government offices, and banks remained closed and vehicular traffic was off the road. The call for the bundh was given by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] in protest against yesterday's killing of two of its supporters in police firing near Sukhiapokhari.

Giving details of the incident, the SP [superintendent of police] Darjeeling told our Kurseong correspondent that some GNLF men opened fire on a police party after they were spotted while laying landmines near Sukhiapokhari. Two GNLF supporters were killed when police returned the fire.

## Iran

### Khomeyni Health Rumors Linked to New Offensive

*LD161334 Kuwait KUNA in English 1242 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] Paris, Dec 16 (KUNA)—Reports on the deteriorating health conditions of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeyni suggests that Iran is ready to launch a new offensive on Iraq, an Arab diplomatic source said here Wednesday.

"Before each of the previous major offensives on Iraq, the Iranians spread rumors on the health conditions of Khomeyni. There are precedents," the source told the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY.

He said that it is very probable that the Iranian intelligence leaked these reports to the British media which has a record in doing so before.

THE TIMES of London reported last Monday that British and Austrian doctors left to Tehran to look after Khomeyni who is reported to be in coma.

According to recent statements from Baghdad, the Iranians have deployed about 150,000 soldiers on the southern front in preparation for a new aggression on Iraq.

The Arab source said Khomeyni, who gave a new will outlining the political system after his death, has violated his religious rule of "the succession of the Faqih (spiritual leader)" by appointing a committee to rule the country.

He pointed out that the committee will have two to five members to look after the affairs of the country, which was encouraged by Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani who wants to isolate the deputy of Khomeyni, Hoseyn Montazeri.

### Vienna Embassy Denies Rumors

*AU161010 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 16 Dec 87 p 2*

[Text] Vienna—The Iranian Embassy in Vienna has rejected the latest rumors about Ayatollah Khomeyni being seriously ill. On Tuesday [15 December] the London TIMES reported that Khomeyni was in a coma and that a team of foreign doctors—including two Austrians—had been flown to Tehran to treat Khomeyni. A spokesman of the Iranian Embassy in Vienna told DIE PRESSE that these were only rumors. He cited as proof for his statement the fact that yesterday the revolution leader had held a public reception. No Austrian doctors have been flown to Tehran to treat Khomeyni, he stated. An APA inquiry to Vienna's largest hospitals also proved negative. No one knows about any such trip.

The rumors about Khomeyni's illness surfaced when he changed several items of his testament last week. Said the Embassy spokesman: "Such a change is an absolutely normal action. Khomeyni is well." Some months ago there were even reports that Khomeyni would be brought to Vienna for medical treatment—reports which proved false in the end.

### Khomeyni's Brother Reportedly Summoned to Tehran

*TA152108 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that as a result of the deterioration of Khomeyni's health over the past few days, Pasandideh, Khomeyni's older brother who resides in Esfahan, has gone to Jamaran. Khomeyni reportedly requested last week that Pasandideh be summoned to Tehran so that Khomeyni might be able to meet with him.

In another development, our co-strugglers have reported that the instant Ruhollah Khomeyni fell into a coma, the Islamic regime ordered the Zolfaqar army, which is incorporated in the Guards Corps, to go on a state of full alert. The Zolfaqar army has the task of guarding sensitive locations, such as radio and television stations, the Islamic Majlis, and the Guards Corps headquarters.

Another report indicates that in the wake of the deterioration of Khomeyni's health, the Tehran government has ordered all officials of the regime who are on missions abroad to return to Tehran as soon as possible.

### Majlis Speaker on War, Summit, Imam's Will

*LD151855 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Reagan-Gorbachev recent summit in Washington, Iran's relations with Paris and London, and the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, in an interview published in Persian Daily 'KEYHAN' Tuesday. Excerpts of the interview follow:

(In response to a question as to whether Resolution 598 could be improved upon, he said): In our opinion, the resolution is not suitable in its present form. It is no good implementing the resolution's articles in a serial order starting from the first to the last, because they are not creditable. They call for a ceasefire before the identification of the aggressor. We are not confident whether or not other articles of the resolution will be implemented once a ceasefire is established. These are not reliable. Therefore we proposed that the articles be rearranged and a court set up which is very clear. So, the resolution is not proper in its present form. It should be improved. Our argument with the United Nations is that any efforts in relation to the war should begin with the identification of the aggressor.

(Asked why the leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union could not reach an agreement on the Iraqi-imposed war during their recent summit talks in Washington, Hashemi-Rafsanjani responded):

It seems the Soviets did not give in to the U.S. pressures. We should thank them for this. Of course, they have their own calculations. They know that the Americans wanted to exploit an arms embargo on Iran as a ruse for further meddlings in the region. Such a sanction would entail other issues. Such an embargo would in fact be considered an embargo of the Eastern bloc governments because it is difficult for Western countries with so many brokers and rival companies to impose an arms embargo.

Over the past six or seven years during which the U.S. enforced the tightest sanctions against us, we have prepared spare parts for our American-made weapons which we fought with. In case sanctions were imposed, the Eastern bloc countries would suffer more than the West, because the Western markets will be preserved.

(Asked whether the U.S. has learnt a lesson from its intrusions in the region and has given up its acts of mischief or would it continue its military encounters with Iran, and also about Iran's strategy in that case, the speaker replied):

It is not proper for us to rest assured that Americans have felt completely sorry or have quitted their mischievous acts. America's presence here is like a flame near a powderkeg. A single spark can ignite anything any moment. Of course, the Americans have become more

realistic. Political officials who have never been involved in a war cannot usually have a correct approach to the issue. They fancy that the mere name of the U.S. or American weapons could solve the problem.

In Iran, after seven years of war, there are still some people having a different view of the war. They had imagined the presence of the NATO forces in the Pesian Gulf and their provocative acts against Iran would force the Islamic Republic to retreat. Perhaps they were not aware of our capabilities, did not know what a speed boat can do in the sea, did not have any idea what a mine meant, did not know what would happen if someone laid mines in the Persian Gulf, and did not realize the power of our missiles. During their (U.S. and NATO) few months' long presence here their image changed and they became realistic after coming face to face with realities.

Moreover, the coasts of the Persian Gulf (Arab) littoral states are quite vulnerable. When one of them (Kuwait) suffers so much in the attack on its Al-Ahmadi port, how can others feel secure? They will suffer substantial losses if a single bullet hits their oil refineries, terminals and water desalination plants. Their gas tankers still sail through the Strait of Hormuz that can be turned into an inferno by a bullet. However, it is very difficult for them to fight in the Persian Gulf on which all of them depend. Therefore, they seem to have become realistic to some extent. We are strongly opposed to the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf. Of course, this does not mean that we will start a fight with the U.S. if it mantains its presence here. We express our opposition politically and will exert pressure with whatever levers we have. We will continue to oppose its presence for ever and will not leave alone those who invited the U.S. to the region.

(On a question on the likelihood of the U.S. military intervention in the Iraqi-imposed war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said):

Their presence is not confined to the shipping or Kuwait. They have come to the region to maintain Saddam Husayn (Iraqi ruler) in power, to influence the future of the region, to frighten us and to threaten interference only under special circumstances. But, they have chosen a wrong way.

(On whether Iran will continue its tit-for-tat policy if the U.S. sets up a military base in the region, the speaker said):

We will in no way bear to see the U.S. establish a military base. We will exert pressure on it with a lot of levers we have. These are different from the one we have already used.

(On relations with France and whether improvement of Tehran-Paris ties could be regarded as a criterion for betterment of relations with other European countries):

We could not be very optimistic in this regard because there is no integration inside French society. There are two similar currents in the country (France) and they have their own problems. Although both of these (political) currents, in separate talks, demand normal relations with Iran, but whether any of them would tolerate to see the other do this, is something France itself should be concerned about.

From the very beginning we have said we have no serious differences with France. The present conflict has been created by them (the French). First of all, they have frozen our assets illegally and against all international laws. The second issue is their unsparing support for Iraq in the war (with Iran) so much so that they leased the Iraqis Super Etendards (warplanes) in their fight against Iran. In this regard, we said France should either stop its military aid to Iraq or treat both sides equally. The third issue concerned the counterrevolutionary and terrorist (Iranian) groups (opposed to the Islamic Republic). We asked France not to help these terrorists in its territory, an act which even does not comply with French rules and regulations. They have no right to give asylum to terrorists. If these problems are resolved, then we can be friends. It seems that the group of Mr. Chirac have such an intention and we too are ready.

On the other hand, the pressures being exerted on France show that Europe is not unanimous on this issue (normalising relations with Iran). The British breached diplomatic norms and interfered in the affairs of France. They (the British) are launching propaganda against them (the French) and the U.S. is very much pressing Paris behind the scene.

(Asked whether he predicted a change in Tehran-London relations, and on rumours that the former British charge d'affaires would return to Tehran and Iran would use its influence to free Terry Waite in Lebanon and also John Cooper, a British being held in Iran on espionage charges would be released, he replied):

Since the British gained nothing from the crisis they created in their relations with Iran, they are probably sorry. If France succeeds (in improving ties with Iran), they (the British) too may try it. But these (rumours) are baseless. We have already clarified our stance regarding the hostage issue. We have no responsibility in Lebanon. An oppressed group, in order to defend its rights, has no choice but to take some people (hostage). Some of them (Lebanese groups) accept our words and therefore we may intercede with them in certain cases. We have declared we would mediate for those countries who are our friends or have no hostility against us. But with the British the case does not seem to be so. They are acting wickedly even right now. We were told just yesterday that they entered our plane with dogs forcefully for inspection and insulted (our people). Yet we would not mind to have normal relations with them. But at the moment we do not think (it is possible).

(On his expected visit to Moscow and whether it would be a normal diplomatic visit or based on any development in the future):

Of course, this visit would materialize if a development took place (in mutual relations). We are too busy that we cannot afford an ordinary trip. But if some developments are to take place in mutual relations, it would be appropriate to make visits of this kind.

(Asked if Iran attached importance to internal developments in the Soviet Union, such as economic and social policies as well as foreign relations, the speaker said):

We certainly do. Because if the Soviet Union changes its policy, it would have an impact on the entire world. Of course there are two positive and negative aspects. We follow up these developments. For instance during the visit of Mr. Gorbachev to the U.S. there were points which are considerable. It seemed to me that the Americans in this visit had an aggressive approach towards the Soviets. On the human rights, the Afghan problem and even on the United Nations Resolution (598) they adopted an offensive posture. (I think) the Soviets could be more offensive than this. They could magnify the issue of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf.

What the U.S. is doing throughout the world, in South America, in Israel, and in treating the Palestinians, was a good weapon in the hands of the Soviets to make them offensive but they were not. Perhaps there are some reasons for this. The (acquiring of) advanced technology is important for the Soviets in their internal developments. They do not want to make the Americans very angry.

(On his opinion about Imam Khomeyni's revised will and the subsequent propaganda by the Western media on this matter):

I think the world understands that it is quite an ordinary issue. In a political testament, a leader may give some advice to his nation in accordnace with the status quo. No one's life is eternal. People like the imam who are very rare, must always have something so that in their absence, the people would have know what to do. [sentence as received]

The imam had written his (first) political will five years ago and it is natural that after five years many things change... I have no idea about the contents of the will nor anybody else, except the imam himself, has... Of course, we were all surprised after we were invited to the imam's residence. Otherwise, we would make arrangements that there would not be so many rumors about the imam's health. Of course these propaganda are to no avail and it only proves that they (the Westerners) are very shallow-minded. In any case, this was something which should have been done and I hope there are more useful and new things in the (revised) will.

In conclusion of his remarks, the Majlis speaker said on the whole he was optimistic towards the third Majlis (Parliament) for which Iranians will go to the polls in March 1988.

### Foreign Ministry Supports Palestinian 'Uprising'

*LD151820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] In the wake of the spread of the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine in the Zionist-occupied territories, our country's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement. In the statement it praised the people of Palestine for their extensive participation and announced:

The homeless refugees deprived of their homeland of Palestine—men, women, young, and old—by receiving inspiration from the struggle of the Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon and other Islamic states, despite the barbaric firing and harsh response of the Zionists, are creating a new turning point in the struggle of the people of Palestine against the usurping occupiers. The continuation of this struggle will certainly bring a new phase of victory to the suffering and Muslim masses of Palestine.

The popular uprising has once again negated the validity of the efforts of the reactionaries, who are seeking compromise with the Zionist enemy to expand the Camp David accords, and is in fact an appropriate response to the treacherous efforts undertaken by the puppets of the United States and Israel in Arab countries. This struggle also demonstrates that the last word will be spoken by the people who observe Islam and that other factions are not capable of conducting successful movements.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the merciless massacre of the Muslim, oppressed, and risen people of Palestine, declares its full and unstinting support for this popular uprising and Islamic struggle, and once again calls upon all Muslims, other freedom-seeking people of the world, and the Islamic, Arab, and nonaligned countries to rise in support of these innocent people, to condemn the crimes and aggression of the Zionist regime, and to seriously confront them.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran also reminds the risen Muslim Palestinian brothers and sisters that they should follow other succesful, popular, Islamic struggles in the world of Islam, and they should not give up their struggle until the complete victory and expulsion of the Zionist occupiers from Palestine. It is hoped that this popular uprising will be a lesson to those compromising leaders of Palestine, who have laid down their arms and are seeking pointless and fruitless political solutions.

## Montazeri Issues Message on Palestinian Unrest

*LD151330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] With the heightening of the large-scale uprising of Muslims in Lebanon and occupied Palestine against the crimes of the regime occupying Jerusalem, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri issued a message addressed to the combative Palestinian and Lebanese ulema and clergymen. We start our news reports with the text of this message:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Your Excellencies, the learned ulema and the committed and combative clergymen of Palestine and Lebanon, may God continue your blessings: After words of greetings and regards, the movement and revolution of the Islamic and wronged Palestinian nation has fortunately now entered a new stage. As the result of the crimes by usurping Israel and the tyrannical policies of the world-devourers and the treachery of most rulers of Islamic countries, that wronged and fugitive nation has been deprived for many years of its country, homeland, and legitimate rights; while Islamic governments and most subservient Arab rulers are merely using the slogan of the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem as a means to deceive the wronged Palestinian nation and the Islamic ummah. That vigilant nation each day has witnessed the growing weakening of the Palestinian revolution in favor of political equations and bargains over its destiny.

After many years of experience and of enduring the pain, tyranny, treason, and corruption of political leaders, the Palestinian nation has finally discovered its path. By faith in and reliance upon the Almighty, the all-beloved God; by following the path of the noble prophet, may God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his kin, and the great imams of Islam and their self-sacrificing disciples; by taking as its model the Islamic revolution of Iran under the leadership of his holiness the imam, may his shadow long continue; and by making use of its valuable experiences, that nation has chosen the path of martyrdom and self-sacrifice and of waging a battle against satanic forces with empty hands but with hearts filled with faith and love, without paying heed to political discussions and bargains at U.S. conferences, and without pinning any hope on the hypocritical promises of commitment and slogans of the East and the West and their lackeys. This has attracted the attention of the world.

The bloody demonstrations and the armed clashes of the Palestinian nation in the occupied territories against the executioners of the usurping Zionists are the best proof of the courage, the genuineness, and the innocence of the Muslim Palestinian nation. All this self-sacrifice and devotion that is today manifested by Muslim and brave Palestinian youths—including members of the clergy, university and school students, and other combative and committed masses—against the occupying Zionists, is a testimony in the eyes of God and a challenge to all the Muslims and the leaders of Islamic countries and the learned ulema.

Today the risen people of Palestine and Lebanon expect from their combative ulema and clergy members nothing short of the leadership and guidance of this Islamic movement, the safeguarding of the unity of expression, and the greater coordination of all forces and capabilities for fighting against usurping Israel. The esteemed learned ulema and noble and combative clergymen of Palestine clearly know that the enemies of Islam and the Koran attach a great deal of importance to the power of their unity. This is why they are doing their utmost to intensify sectarian, religious, and denominational differences; and, regrettably, they have been successful to some extent.

The brothers should pay greater attention to the dimensions of the issues and political conditions of the world, and should make the greatest use of this divine chance and opportunity that has arisen to fight against the united ranks of blasphemy and usurping Zionism and to regain the glory of Islam and Muslims as well as the liberation of the beloved Jerusalem and the wronged Palestinian and Lebanese nations from the domination of blasphemous and colonial powers. They should try to strengthen resistance cells and self-sacrificing and martyrdom-seeking operations in all the occupied territories, and should deprive the frightened enemy from any opportunity of marshaling its forces.

The combative Palestinian clergymen, by following the example of their clerical brothers in Islamic Iran, should exert their greatest efforts. They should be the standard-bearers and forerunners of the movement, resistance, martyrdom, and self-sacrifice at all stages of the struggle so that the Palestinian nation will no longer be the victim of political equations and can follow the path which it has now chosen, with strength and self-sacrifice, until final victory and the liberation of the beloved Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

I beseech Almighty God for the glory of Islam and the Muslims and the final victory of the fighters of Islam over world blasphemy and usurping Zionism.

[Signed] Your brother, Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

## Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Montazeri

*LD161120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom last night and discussed various issues with his eminence.

**Khamene'i, New Pakistani Envoy Comment on Ties**
*LD151919 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Pakistan's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic Tanvir Ahmad Khan submitted his credentials to President 'Ali Khamene'i here today.

Tanvir Khan said that the deeply-rooted common grounds between the two neighboring Muslim nations of Iran and Pakistan are major factors for consolidation of bilateral ties.

He said that there is no limit to the expansion of cooperation between the two 'friendly' countries, adding that friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

President Khamene'i said that Iran considers Pakistan as one of the 'best friendly Muslim states' in the world.

"For our, as Muslim states, the unity and solidarity of Muslims and of our nations is not a political idea but an Islamic principle," President Khamene'i said. [sentence as received]

**Islamabad Attache on Trade With Pakistan**
*NC160846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Text] On the basis of an agreement between economic officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, 2 million tonnes of goods are to be transported annually from the friendly neighbor Pakistan via the Mirjaveh border to Sistan va Baluchestan Province. This quantity of goods, the first consignment of which will arrive by rail and road by the end of the year, will be distributed in the Provinces of Khorasan, Kerman, and Sistan va Baluchestan.

This was announced by the economic attache of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. The attache added: The volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the brother nation of Pakistan is at present $300 million. It will increase to $400 million next year on the basis of an agreement reached by the two countries' joint committee. He also stated that at Pakistan's request, 200 buses and a quantity of medicines manufactured in Iran and needed by Pakistan are to be exported to that country for the first time. Our commercial attache added: Each year 20 million rupees' worth of goods are traded between merchants of Iran's Sistan va Baluchestan Province and Pakistan's Baluchistan Province.

It should be noted that after the signing of the economic protocol by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the first consignment of goods, weighing 1,000 tonnes, will arrive in Zahedan next week, via Mirjaveh.

**Khamene'i Receives Outgoing Italian Ambassador**
*LD151913 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—The outgoing Italian ambassador, Guiseppe Baldocci, called on President 'Ali Khamene'i here today to bid farewell at the end of his four-year term in Iran.

Baldocci talked on matters of mutual interests and reaffirmed Italy's policy of non-interference in other countries' affairs.

In response, President Khamene'i emphasized the need for strengthening and expanding bilateral ties saying, "We view Italy as an independent European nation and regulate our relations also on the same basis."

Khamene'i further said that U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf aimed at pursuing certain vested goals, and hoped that Italy will not be influenced by the policies of the U.S. and other European countries.

The president was optimistic that European countries would eventually manifest realistic tendencies.

**Italy Asked To Investigate Assaults on FAO Mission**
*LD151923 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Rome, Dec. 15, IRNA—Iran's permanent representation to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) here called on the Italian Government Monday to investigate several suspicious cases of assaults on the mission.

In its statement, the Iranian representation said following suspicious assaults on the mission on 24 November, an office's vehicle was damaged last Sunday night.

The statement, regretting that the Italian Government has so far failed to take any measure against such moves, urged Rome to provide security to the office and its employees according to international conventions.

**Khamene'i Briefed by Envoy to Turkey**
*LD151643 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Manuchehr Motaki, presented a report to President 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday on existing collaborations between Iran and Turkey, as well as the recent socio-political developments in his area of assignment.

Motaki also briefed the president on the Iran-Turkey trade relations within the framework of the protocol of bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

President Khamene'i, pointing to the spheres of collaboration between the two neighbouring Muslim countries, emphasized the necessity of promoting bilateral relations.

### Official, Soviet Envoy Discuss Cooperation

*LD131014 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 13 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 13, IRNA—Economic and technical cooperation between Iran and the U.S.S.R. was stressed in a meeting of the Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev here Saturday with Iranian official in charge of Energy Ministry, Abol Hasan Khamushi.

During the meeting bilateral cooperation in water and electricity and progress made in making preparations for finalization of the agreement to build 'Khoda Afarin' and 'Quiz Qalasi' dams over the border river of Aras. [sentence as received]

The Soviet diplomat praising the progress made on holding the 11th joint economic-technical commission hoped that prior to holding the commission a group of Soviet experts would visit joint water projects over Atrak River in Mazandaran Province and Harirud in Khorasan Province to make necessary evaluations.

Gudev also hoped that both countries would expand technical cooperation in water and energy projects and stated that his country is willing to create appropriate conditions for transferring electric power to Iran.

The Energy Ministry has stated that any such action in this respect will be pending necessary technical and economic evaluations.

### Musavi Calls on Broadcasters To Expand Programs

*LD151933 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that the Islamic revolution belongs to Muslims all over the world, and the external service of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) should convey the message of the Islamic revolution to the whole ummah and inform them of Muslim struggles against world arrogance.

Speaking at the meeting of IRIB managers, Premier Musavi pointed that facts about the Islamic Republic should be presented to other nations, noting that Muslims outside Iran feel proud when they hear of Iranian innovations, inventions and the relentless struggle against world arrogance.

### Interior Minister Outlines Election Preparations

*LD161149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 87*

[Interview with Interior Minister Mohtashemi by unidentified Tehran radio correspondent on elections for the third Majlis session; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Mohtashemi, in view of the fact that the elections for the third session of the Majlis will be held at the beginning of April 1988, please let us know what steps have been taken by the Interior Ministry to hold the elections in the best possible way.

[Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. In view of the fact that we have fixed 8 April as the day for holding the elections, it is natural that beginning 1 month earlier, namely 9 March, the candidates register. However, it is incumbent upon a number of officials to resign 2 months before registration and to hold no positions. This is specified in the law, and we announced it in a statement issued some time ago. We announced who these officials are: the president, the prime minister, ministers, their deputies, advisers to ministers, as well as governors-general, governors, district governors, political officials, and directors-general. These individuals should resign their posts 2 months before registration if they wish to announce their candidacy for the election. Naturally, 8 February will be the last opportunity for those officials to resign. According to the law, the Friday imams should also resign from their posts 2 months before registration and should hold no position. However, the Friday Imams Secretariat wrote a letter to his holiness the imam some time ago requesting that Friday imams resign 3 months before registration and the elections. His holiness the imam accepted this request. In view of the approval of his holiness the imam, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that the Friday imams resign 3 months in advance, and the latest opportunity we announced was 10 December 87, which was the latest deadline by which date the esteemed Friday imams could have resigned. On this basis, those who have not resigned by now cannot take part in the elections. This is in view of the regulations and the law which we announce here once again. On this basis, those in charge of the elections can under no circumstances register the names of those who do not resign by the set dates.

We also have made the necessary preparations for holding the elections as far as equipment is concerned. We have formed a proper inspectorate and have made provisions so that no violations can be committed by any organization or department, whether it be an executive or nonexecutive organ. We also have made preparations so that the views of his holines the imam concerning the elections are closely and accurately implemented and that there are no violations. We are completely prepared to hold the elections, and we foresee holding them for the third session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in the

best possible way. We also have made preparations for security measures, for the security of the ballot boxes, and the security of our dear citizens and esteemed compatriots as they cast their ballots. Many circulars on different issues have been issued. We have no difficulties concerning the elections.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

### Oil Minister Cited on Leaving OPEC Session

*LD151147 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 15, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Tuesday that during the just concluded OPEC session in Vienna, opponents of Iran tried to make it not sign the session's agreement. However, since any such action would result in further market instability they then decided to talk Iran into signing the agreement, he added.

Speaking in a press conference Aqazadeh who left the OPEC session Monday Morning, said that Iran left the session in protest. But since Iran has always worked for unity and strengthening of the organisation, Iranian authorities decided that it was better to sign the session's agreement.

On effect of the OPEC 82nd session's agreement on oil market, he said if all the 12 signatories to the agreement stand by the quotas set by the organisation oil prices will remain at $18.00 per barrel with slight temporary fluctuations. Any violation, he said will upset market stability and in case of such an event OPEC will call for an emergency session.

According to Aqazadeh talks on compensating for slump in dollar value were stopped and postponed till next OPEC session due to opposition of Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) and Kuwait which defend interests of the U.S.

Iran by signing the agreement of the session prevented further instability in international oil markets, he concluded.

Another issue raised in the course of the session, he told reporters, was efforts of Arab countries to make way for Iraq to produce as much as Iran does. However, due to opposition of non-Arab OPEC members this plan failed.

### Commentary on OPEC Session, Saudi Stand

*NC160916 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The 82d session of OPEC oil ministers can be described as the most political in the history of OPEC. It was political because the Baghdad-Kuwait-Riyadh axis tried—within the framework of the GCC's policies and inspired by the decisions adopted by the Arab summit in Amman—to form a new bloc against OPEC's progressive members that supported an increase in oil prices and a drop in production. At the same time, it sought to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is Iran's view that longer-term policies should be adopted by OPEC to the benefit of all members. The support shown by eight OPEC members for this view showed that the majority of the members endorse Iran's stand.

OPEC was established in 1960 to protect the interests of the oil-producing countries, the main national income of which derives from this energy source. Developments since 1960 show that OPEC—with the presence of such members as Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], Kuwait, and their allies—has become an organization that is under the indirect influence of the West, and especially of the United States. With its oil reserves of 164 billion barrels—one-fourth of the world's total known resources—and through the vast potential of its oil industry, put at its disposal by the Saudi-U.S. ARAMCO oil company, the Hijaz regime enjoys such freedom of action in OPEC that it can continue its obstructionism to the benefit of Western interests even without the help of its allies in the GCC, which are also OPEC members.

In 1983, during the OPEC session in London, the Hijaz regime's obstructionism and proposals caused a drop in oil prices from $34 to $29 per barrel. Since early 1984, with violations by some members of the production ceiling on the one hand and the drop in the price of North Sea Brent oil to $21 per barrel in 1985 on the other, oil markets, led by the Hijaz regime, began competing to see which could sell oil at the lowest price.

The course of events shows that in their efforts to break oil prices in the Middle East, the motives of the Hijaz regime and its allies are more political than economic in nature. At any rate, it is likely that by controlling its members' production levels by sending independent auditors from various countries to study possible violations of the set quotas, OPEC will be able at least to retain the $18 per barrel price and return the necessary stability to the market.

### Commentary Recalls Arab, U.S. Aid to Iraq

*NC151326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0615 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program: "The War and World Arrogance"]

[Text] One of the indications of the active support of world arrogance for the Ba'thist Iraqi regime on the international level has been the very considerable assistance the dependent and reactionary regimes have extended to Saddam. These regimes—as the direct

agents of U.S. imperialism in the region—have undertaken the duty of ensuring the Baghdad leaders' economic viability and of supplying it with arms in its confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Actually, all of the economic aid, supplies, and arms which the reactionary Arab governments provide the Iraqi regime directly reflect the all-embracing efforts by world arrogance to destroy the Islamic revolution.

The petrodollars of the regional Arabs have been placed at the disposal of Saddam's regime throughout the imposed war. By utilizing these potentials, the Iraqi rulers started a program for the destruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This economic and military assistance culminated in 1361 and 1362 [period between 1982 and 1984] after the combatants of Islam scored great victories including the conquest of Khorramshahr. This went so far that the money earned from the daily sale of 300,000 barrels of oil by the leaders of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and Kuwait was deposited into the accounts of the aggressive Iraqi regime.

On 5 April 1982, at a time when the combatants of Islam had achieved great victories in the epic-making Fath al-Mobin operations, AL-SAFIR wrote: Saudi Arabia announces its readiness to pay for the arms that Iraq has purchased from France. The semiofficial figures that were published placed the amount of arms orders by Iraq at Fr10 billion. According to this Arabic-language newspaper, published in Beirut, at this point the Kuwaiti leaders had extended an additional $2 billion loan to the Iraqi rulers as a continuation of their past economic assistance. Meanwhile, after Syria halted the flow of oil from Iraq's oil pipeline in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, DPA reported that the governments of Hijaz, Kuwait, and of a number of other GCC members placed a loan of DM50 million as immediate aid at the disposal of Saddam's regime in addition to paying war expenses. In addition, Lebanon's AL-SHIRA' wrote in 1983 that the Saudi monarchy had purchased a large quantity of heavy arms from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria for the Iraqi regime. The magazine added that the arms purchased by the Saudi regime from Poland amounted to $2 billion.

In addition to their active economic and military support for the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, the reactionary Arab regimes also extended other assistance to the Baghdad rulers in the information and political fields in a bid to destroy the Islamic revolution of Iran. JEUNE AFRIQUE wrote on 9 June 1982 that while welcoming Saddam in the summer of [1980]—1 and 1/2 before the war—the Saudi rulers gave him a kingly gift in the form of a report prepared by U.S. intelligence and security organizations in which Iran's economic, social, and military situation had been explained. Moreover, these documents contained precise information on the Iranian Army, the number of its personnel, and the positions and equipment of the Armed Forces, as well as other very confidential intelligence. In short, a complete plan for an offensive had been prepared.

At any rate, the assistance extended to the infidel and aggressive Ba'thist regime by the reactionary Arab leaders, such as the rulers of Hijaz and the Kuwaiti shaykhs, in the economic, military, and in formation fields, was part of the aid given by world arrogance and by the United States to the rulers of Baghdad. It also was a manifestation of the fact that the objectives of regional reaction, international imperialism, and the Ba'thist rulers of Iraq in confronting the Islamic revolution of Iran and in destroying this divine-popular system, were the same.

This process continues today as well. However, thanks to the selflessness of the combatants of Islam, it has been neutralized on a vast scale and, with God's help, this chain of plots will be destroyed with the Islamic Republic of Iran's definite victory in the near future. We are now witnessing how the brave Iranian nation has turned the entire world's attention to Islam and to Islamic values as a result of its rare resistance against the bullies dominating the world. This strength is so great that if the doors of all the world's arsenals open up to the aggressive Ba'thist army and all the region's dollars, forces, and potentials are sent to Baghdad to confront this nation, all their efforts would be in vain, all their weapons would lose their strength, and all their forces would either surrender, flee, or be destroyed. This epic has now reached such a point that when the United States, which claims to be the world's biggest military power, and its allies carried out a military expedition in the Persian Gulf, its soldiers lost their morale to such an extent that the Pentagon had to send a clown and comedian to the Persian Gulf to boost their morale. Thanks to the strength of the revolutionary Iranian nation, and thanks to the revival and expansion of the divine values stemming from the Islamic revolution, we are approaching victory more and more each day.

### Tehran Reports Greek Tanker Attacked Twice

*LD152025 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] A Greek tanker carrying Hijaz [Saudi] oil was attacked twice by gunboats in the Persian Gulf today. Shipping sources, while announcing this, added: After the second attack, the crew of the tanker was forced to leave the tanker, and tugboats are busy evacuating them. According to these sources, the Greek tanker "Ardian" was first attacked immediately after it entered the Persian Gulf and caught fire. After the crew extinguished the fire, the tanker continued on its course. However, after passing through Dubai's waters, it was again attacked and caught fire.

The same sources added: At the time the Greek tanker was attacked, a U.S. warship was also present in the region.

## IRGC Spokesman Interviewed on Forces to Fronts

*NC151009 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Interview with IRGC Spokesman Afshar by unidentified station correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In response to the 10-point directive issued by the Supreme War Support Council, our Hizballah ummah are applying to the IRGC centers throughout the country to wait their turn [to be sent to the front]. I ask Mr Afshar, the IRGC spokesman, to discuss the steps taken so far.

[Afshar] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. In confronting the enemies of the revolution, our martyr-nurturing ummah and our dear people have always voiced the Islamic revolution's main slogan of "War, war until victory." This slogan, which can be heard in the cries of people from all strata of society—the young and old, men and women, city- and village-dwellers—is the main policy on which the programs of the war are based and should be fully implemented. The objective of the Supreme War Support Council's call is to realize this end. The call was also made to stress the necessary points to the country for a long-term and all-embracing program to strengthen the fronts of the war.

Among the most important programs for recruiting forces and especially reserve forces, is the program of incremental dispatches, which has been approved by the Supreme War Support Council. Thank God, people have continuously applied to the IRGC centers during this period. By displaying their readiness in the immense Muhammad Corps maneuvers and in other activities, the people have expressed their readiness to go to the fronts. All these people are applying for the dispatch-in-stages program. Of course, the (?turnout) for the dispatch in stages has been good, thank God. In fact, in some of the towns we have had even more applications than we anticipated. For example, 10 stages have been organized in Rafsanjan and the names of the volunteers to be dispatched in stages have been posted on lists in mosques. Almost 40,000 people in Kerman are waiting their turn to leave in stages, while six stages have been organized for dispatch in Semman. Thank God, the activities continue in other provinces as well.

An important point is that the volunteers are exerting great pressure on the IRGC because of their desire to be dispatched in the first stage. We should say that in addition to having more people than necessary for the first stage, there are also those who cannot wait to attend training courses and want to be sent in the first stage as support forces. We ask all the Hizballah ummah and those who want to go to the fronts to proceed according to the program and to wait their turn to be sent to the fronts. The dispatch in stages also ensures an orderly continuation of operations for the IRGC and the military commanders. It also gives those people who want to arrange their matters in advance before going to the fronts the opportunity to do so.

Of course, the dispatch in stages will continue until the end of this month [21 December]. After this, we will continue the dispatch in stages in order to [words indistinct]. God willing, we hope that we will be able to successfully carry out at least five stages of dispatches from throughout the country during this phase.

[Correspondent] Mr Afshar, please explain further the presence of 20 percent of civil servants on the fronts.

[Afshar] With regard to the presence of civil servants on the fronts, the Supreme War Support Council has approved the 20 percent plan. This plan has (?two) stages. First, 20 percent of all civil servant volunteers should not be prevented by the officials in charge of government offices from going to the fronts. Second, the civil servants' specialized forces—both those serving in cities that [word indistinct] bases and [word indistinct], and in cities behind the fronts—will be assigned work in their specialized fields. As a principle, and in view of the importance of the volunteer and mobilization forces and the role that the selflessness of volunteer forces can play on the fronts, we have not pursued the (?laws) of compulsory recruitment. Only the IRGC recruitment office and the general recruitment law are authorized to send forces to the fronts. Also, this has not been a program on the agenda of the (?War Support Council). We hope that in view of the decisions made and the (?facilities) created for the volunteer forces, (?most of the difficulties have been overcome) [words indistinct] and the maximum possibilities have been created for increasing the number of volunteers for the fronts.

[Correspondent] Thank you, very much.

## 'Several Million' Volunteer for War Service

*LD152202 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Several million volunteer forces announced their readiness to join the war fronts during maneuvers of Mohammad (SAW) corps early this month, disclosed head of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad-Ali Rahmani here today.

Hoj. Rahmani said the main objective of drawing a time table for despatch of volunteer forces to garrisons (for military training) and to war fronts was not only to prevent an unwieldy accumulation but also an efficient use of their capabilities.

People enthusiastically welcomed the plan for despatch to garrison and war fronts, said Hoj. Rahmani noting that in most of the cities volunteer forces have registered their names for the next fourth or fifth batches.

### Joint Staff Issues Communique No 3,051

*LD151529 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched seven cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

In its 3051st daily communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Tuesday that Iran's Muslim combatants opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the fronts, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and a munitions dump were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Monday.

Iranian artillery fire heavily shelled Iraqi tank squadrons in Panjwin, Eyn Khosh, Yebis and west of Jofeyr, northwestern and southern fronts, Monday, silencing their fire and inflicting heavy losses on several enemy tanks.

A number of Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Panjwin, Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar war theaters Monday sustained several casualties and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

The artillery fire of Iran's Muslim forces checked movement of Iraqi motorized units in areas overlooking Mehran and Nahr 'Anbar, western fronts, and enemy engineering units in Qasr-e Shirin, Nahr 'Anbar and Eynkhosh, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, the communique said.

### Peshmerga Reportedly Kill 50 Iraqi Troops

*LD151838 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) killed 50 Ba'thist troops and wounded many others during a blitz attack on Salaheddin District of Irbil Province over the past three days, announced Ramadan headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) irregulars today.

The headquarters added that Colonel Qazi Nuruddin Kamal Khurshid, deputy commander of a 'Khafifa' (Light) battalion and several Ba'thist officers including commander of the local mercenaries were seen among the dead.

PUK Peshmergas also captured 23 Iraqi troops, destroyed 37 enemy vehicles and seized some weaponry and munitions in the course of the operations, said the hqs.

## Pakistan

### Commentary Notes U.S. Congress Change on Aid

*BK141344 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Ghani Erabi commentary]

[Text] The congressional clearance of the U.S. aid package for Pakistan concludes a long drawn struggle between conflicting lobbies, interests and values that witnessed many ups and downs over the year. It saw aid suspended, it viewed suggestions seeking to terminate all assistance until Islamabad submitted Kahuta facility to international inspection and, finally, its standing proposal planning to regionalize nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia and treat India and Pakistan at par.

The pro-India lobby headed by Senators Claiborne Pell, Daniel Moynihan, and John Glenn and Congressman Stephen Solarz, joined hands with the pro-Israeli lobby of Senator Cranston to work for the suspension or stoppage of all military and economic assistance to Pakistan. They were met head on by the bipartisan congressional task force on Afghanistan led by Senator Gordon Humphrey and Congressman Wilson.

The deadlock of lobbies was sought to be resolved by members of the Senate Appropriations Committee represented by Senators Inouye and Cranston with the application of [word indistinct] non-partisanship. They stipulated that the prohibitions of USA's anti-proliferation legislation should apply equally to India and Pakistan. Both possess nuclear material, be it enriched uranium or separated plutonium, and, therefore, both should forfeit claim to assistance or both benefit from a presidential waiver. This created the fiercest outcry in India.

The Cranstan-Inouye amendment sought not only to equate India and Pakistan but also imperil India's import of modern dual purpose technology and highly sophisticated military equipment in addition to flow of U.S. funds from the World Bank, IDA [International Development Association], IMF and the Asian Bank. That would have spelled utter disaster for India's financial solvency and military preparedness.

Whether the Cranstan-Inouye amendment was a political ploy or a vehement aversion of a reawakened morality, it appears to have done the trick. Instead of fixing the colossal economic, technological, and military assistance extended by USA to India by various agencies in different forms and shapes, India's friends in the United States decided to back down on the issue of aid to Pakistan and let both houses of Congress go ahead and approve the $4.2 billion 6-year aid package.

As the two bills differed significantly in detail, a joint committee of the two houses should be getting together tonight to sort out the differences. For instance, the Senate version lifts the Symington embargo for 6 years while the House chart does it only for one. Again, while the House wants a report on uranium enrichment, the Senate wants it also on separated plutonium. And yet again, while the House provides full funding, the Senate proposes a cut of $190 million in the first year's appropriation. Finally, the Senate version contains an overriding clause that empowers the president to waive all prohibition irrespective of enrichment level, etcetera, if it certifies that the termination of state assistance would result in a serious threat to the security interests of the United States.

Neither version seeks the so-called credible assurances from Pakistan that some congressional leaders are demanding. Thereby, Senate [is] indicating the stand Pakistan has steadfastly maintained in support of its national sovereignty.

### British Minister Holds Talks in Islamabad

#### Confers With Zain Noorani

*BK141531 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Dec 87*

[Text] In Islamabad this evening, Lord Glenarthur, British minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, called on Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional and international issues.

#### Meets With President Zia

*BK151324 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] The British minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Lord Glenarthur, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. He delivered to the president a letter from the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. During the meeting, they reviewed regional situation and exchanged views to further strengthen bilateral relations. They expressed their satisfaction over the present state of bilateral relations between the two countries.

#### Formal Talks Held 15 Dec

*BK151543 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Dec 87*

[Text] Formal talks between Pakistan and the United Kingdom were held in Islamabad today. The Pakistani delegation was led by Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the British side was led by Lord Glenarthur, British minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs. They exchanged views on the international and regional situation, especially the Afghanistan problem. The British delegation praised Pakistan's role in providing refuge and in looking after the Afghan nationals. They also explored possibilities of expanding bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields.

## Sri Lanka

### IPKF Activities, Clashes With LTTE Reported

#### Attack on Police Station

*BK151317 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1107 GMT 15 Dec 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 15 (LANKA PUWATH)—A LTTE terrorist attack last night on the police station at Eravur, about 15 kilometres from Batticaloa town, eastern Sri Lanka was repulsed. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the attack had commenced 1930 hours (local time) and ended 45 minutes later when the terrorists fled due to the superior firepower of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and the police. Official sources said that two Indian soldiers and one Sri Lankan police constable received minor injuries.

Another report from Ampara states that in the firefight that followed a LTTE landmine explosion at Thirukkovil at 2115 hours (local time) on Sunday night, one Indian soldier and four others were wounded, two civilians, Sinnathamby and Rajendra, were killed in the crossfire. Official sources said the IPKF mobile patrol was returning to camp when they ran into the terrorist landmine at Sakamam Road, Thirukkovil in the Akkaraipattu police area.

A report from Jaffna states that one Indian soldier was killed and eight LTTE terrorists were captured at Atchuvely, about 23 kilometres northeast of Jaffna town yesterday. Two LTTE terrorists were captured by the IPKF at Ariyalay five kilometres from Jaffna town.

Two EPRLF terrorists who were returning after robbing the village of Pudukudiriuppu in Mannar were reported to have run into a LTTE terrorist landmine last Sunday. The terrorist driving the getaway hired car and his accomplice were injured and rushed to Mannar hospital for treatment.

A report from Ampara states that LTTE terrorists had attacked the No. 8 colony of the central camp, Ampara and wounded four villagers who were slashed with swords. On hearing of the attack the police had rushed to the scene and rushed them to hospital.

### 'Massive Haul' of Explosives

*BK161105 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1041 GMT 16 Dec 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 16 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) made a massive haul when it successfully raided a LTTE terrorist ammunition and explosives dump in Jaffna. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that Indian troops had seized during the last 48 hours, over 20,000 rounds of machine gun and 7.26 ammunition, several thousand rounds more of AK-47 and other types of ammunition and large stocks of explosives and detonators when they raided the principal LTTE ammunition and explosives depot at Annacoddai, about 6 kilometers northwest of Jaffna town.

They said that large hauls had also been made in raids on LTTE ammunition and explosives dumps in Jaffna town, Atchuvely, and Tellipallai.

### 4 Wounded, 4 Killed 15-16 Dec

*BK161133 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1115 GMT 16 Dec 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 16 (LANKA PUWATH)—Four Indian soldiers were killed and four wounded during the last 48 hours in an operation at Mullaitivu in north eastern Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKA PUWATH. They said one LTTE terrorist Balraj was wounded. The IPKF [Indian Peace Keeping Force] encountered the terrorists at Mulliyawalai and Tanniyutu close to the costal fishing centre of Mullaitivu town on Sri Lanka's north eastern seaboard.